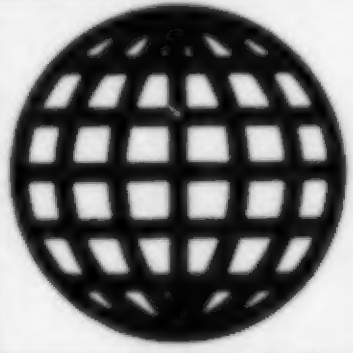




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Daily Report

East Asia

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3 February 1993

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East Asia

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Japan

Academics Urge Tokyo To Accept Rice Tariffs

OW0202095993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT
2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—An academic group called on the government Tuesday to accept a world trade body proposal to replace Japan's rice import ban with tariffs.

"The successful conclusion of the new round (of multi-lateral trade talks) is a life and death problem for Japan, which depends on foreign trade for its existence," a statement issued by the group said.

It said Japan's refusal to accept the proposal will lead to a fiasco in the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The group, named the National Forum for the Acceptance of the Tariffication of Rice Imports, said the imposition of high tariff rates will prevent a drastic rise in Japan's rice imports, giving the country time to carry out agricultural reforms.

The forum, led by former Foreign Minister Saburo Okita, is composed of academics and foreign affairs experts.

The group warned that Japan could face tougher problems to overcome such as a U.S. threat to take retaliatory action under its 1989 trade act unless Japan accepts the tariffication proposal.

SDPJ Official Favors Lifting Rice Ban

OW0302012293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0057 GMT
3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—A senior official of Japan's no. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] has indicated readiness to open the country's rice market to imports.

The top-ranking SDP official told reporters Tuesday [2 Feb] night that the rice issue can be resolved if measures are taken to compensate for the effect on domestic farmers.

"The rice issue is not so difficult to clear. Tougher is what to do with nuclear power," he said on condition of anonymity.

SDP sources said the remarks are sure to draw strong fire within and outside the party as they clearly contradict its longstanding policy of opposing lifting the ban on rice imports.

The party has consistently defended the rice policy, citing Diet resolutions on self-sufficiency in the nation's staple food.

Japan's rice import ban is one of the issues blocking conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A draft treaty presented in December 1991 by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel provides for barriers to farm imports to be replaced by tariffs which would gradually be reduced, leading to an eventual opening of Japan's rice market.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa showed flexibility on the so-called "tariffication" formula late last year after a breakthrough accord in November on farm trade between the United States and the European Community (EC).

But he has apparently backpedaled on the issue since then and prospects for quick completion of the Round have faded.

SDPJ's Akamatsu Criticized for Rice Remarks

OW0302081393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0710 GMT
3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The secretary general of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] was criticized by party members Wednesday for indicating he favored lifting a ban on imported rice, party officials said.

Hiroataka Akamatsu was rapped for his about-face on SDPJ policy during a meeting of the party's Diet administration committee and agriculture, forestry and fishery subcommittee on Wednesday morning.

Chairman Sadao Yamahana dismissed Akamatsu's remarks at a general council meeting, and said the party will adamantly stick to its stance against opening the rice market, they said.

Yamahana said the party leadership received protests Wednesday from several agricultural organizations over Akamatsu's remarks. The SDPJ reacted by calling an emergency meeting of party top executives, the officials said.

Akamatsu told reporters Tuesday [2 February] night that the rice issue can be resolved if measures are taken to compensate domestic farmers.

At the meeting of the agriculture, forestry and fishery subcommittee Akamatsu apologized for his remarks, saying he did not mean to imply that Japan accepts tariff proposals.

Members said Akamatsu should take responsibility for his remarks while the committee issued a statement saying there is no change to the party's stand on the rice issue, the officials said.

Japan's rice import ban is one issue blocking conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade talks held under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A draft treaty presented in December 1991 by GATT Director Arthur Dunkel provides for barriers to farm imports to be replaced by tariffs which would gradually be reduced, leading to an eventual opening of Japan's rice market.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa showed flexibility on the tariffication formula late last year.

SDPJ Emergency Meeting Called on Rice Policy

OW0302065693 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 3 Feb 93

[From the "News at Noon" program]

[Text] In connection with a remark by a top-ranking official of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) last night that the liberalization of rice imports is acceptable under certain conditions, criticism has erupted inside the party. The SDPJ will hold an emergency meeting of its three key executives today to confirm that there has been no change in the SDPJ's basic stand that to ensure a stable supply of Japan's staple food, it is opposed to liberalization.

A top SDPJ official made a remark last night suggesting that if adequate measures are taken to help farmers, liberalization of rice imports might be acceptable. This indicated a conditional acceptance for rice import liberalization.

In connection with the remark, criticisms were voiced in this morning's meeting of the SDPJ's Diet Administration Committee that this contradicted the party's policy that it will definitely resist the liberalization of rice imports.

Furthermore, regarding this issue, Chairman Murayama of the SDPJ's Diet Administration Committee said at a news conference today that it is necessary to clarify once more that there has been no change whatsoever in the SDPJ's position that it is opposed to the liberalization of rice imports, not only for the sake of the farmers, but also for the sake of a stable supply of food for the Japanese people as a whole, and for safeguarding Japanese agriculture.

In view of the criticisms in the party, the SDPJ will hold an emergency meeting of its three key executive officers this afternoon to reconfirm the party's policy of opposing rice import liberalization.

Miyazawa on Cost of U.S. Bases, UNSC Seat

OW0302121593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Wednesday that Japan has no plans to expand the scope of its financial burden for U.S. bases in Japan after fiscal 1995.

Japan agreed with the United States in the summer of 1991 that it will increase its share of costs for Japanese employees and for lighting and fuel to 100 percent in fiscal 1995, which starts in April of that year.

Miyazawa told the House of Representatives Budget Committee it is "difficult to find grounds" for increasing the scope of Japan's expenses after Tokyo begins paying 100 percent of the costs for Japanese employees on the bases and for lighting, fuel and water services in line with the agreement.

Miyazawa was responding to questions by Nobuaki Futami of Komeito.

Turning to Japan's hope of becoming a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC], Miyazawa said few countries seem to be openly opposed to it, but added that he is not seeking to make rapid progress on the matter.

Futami pointed out that the government should consider the problems that might arise if Japan becomes a permanent member, such as when the Security Council adopts a resolution to implement sanctions using force, because Japan will not be able to participate due to constitutional limits.

Article 9 of the Constitution bans the use of force in settling international conflicts.

Miyazawa agreed with Futami and said such matters need considering.

Tokyo Comments on U.S. 'Tough Trade Bills'

OW0302045093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0421 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan will urge the United States through diplomatic channels to deal in a fair manner with two tough trade bills targeting Japan and other trading partners, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday.

They made the disclosure while commenting on reports from Washington that Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Trade Subcommittee, has introduced the bills which target countries allegedly discriminating against U.S. exports and cheating on trade agreements.

The two bills represent a revival of the so-called Super 301 Provision and a trade agreements compliance act.

The officials said enactment of the bills could lead to protectionist U.S. trade policies.

They also said Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe is expected to express Japanese concern over the bills in his scheduled meeting this month with Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington.

Officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), meanwhile, said the trade bills are "undesirable" from the perspective of free trade, because they could lead to unilateral U.S. retaliatory moves against certain countries.

The officials said Japan is no doubt among the countries being targeted in the bills, noting that Sen. Baucus mentioned "a potential major trade agreement violation by Japan" in connection with the 1991 Japan-U.S. Semiconductor Trade Agreement.

Kono Critical of Proposed Bills

OW0302085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono suggested Wednesday that two newly proposed U.S. trade bills to punish countries allegedly cheating on trade agreements actually violate the principle of free trade.

"Viewed from the perspective of free trade, the existence of that sort of bill is undesirable. There is also a view that it violates the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, under whose auspices global trade talks are taking place, Kono told a news conference.

The top government spokesman was referring to legislation introduced by Sen. Max Baucus, chairman of the Senate Trade Subcommittee, that would target countries that discriminate against U.S. exports or fail to fulfill trade agreements.

Baucus has said that Japan may have violated a 1991 Japan-U.S. semiconductor trade agreement.

Steelworkers Protest U.S. Dumping Ruling

OW0302060793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japanese steelworkers' unions on Wednesday criticized a U.S. decision to impose dumping duties on imports from Japan and 18 other countries, saying problems facing the U.S. steel industry are due to its own neglect.

"The U.S. industry is blaming foreign makers for its own neglect in spending on facilities and updating technologies," the Japanese federation of iron and steel workers' unions said in a statement.

The U.S. Commerce Department slapped provisional tariffs of up to 109 percent on steel imports from the 19 nations on January 27, accusing them of selling products in the United States for less than in their home markets.

A federation official said, "If such a thing goes unremarked, it would cripple the global trade system."

The federation also said in a separate statement that it welcomes the Japanese Government's decision on January 29 to impose dumping duties on imports from China of ferrosilicon manganese, which is used in making steel alloys, terming it a "valid action."

The duties, effective from Wednesday, are up to 27 percent.

Antidumping Duties Placed on PRC Materials

OW0302033793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan imposed antidumping duties, effective Wednesday, on ferrosilicon manganese imports from Chinese companies, accusing them of selling the steelmaking material in Japan at unfairly low prices, government officials said.

The action was taken when the government implemented a special ordinance imposing duties of 4.5 to 27.2 percent on the Chinese imports, the officials said.

They said this was the first time Japan has slapped antidumping duties on imports from any country.

The duties will apply to all ferrosilicon manganese imports from China, except shipments by two Chinese companies which have promised to raise export prices, the officials said.

Ferrosilicon manganese is used in the production of alloy steel as a deoxidizing and desulfurizing agent.

Maritime Safety Agency Detains Chinese Boat

OW0302135293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Naha, Feb. 3 KYODO—A Maritime Safety Agency patrol boat detained a Chinese vessel north of Kumejima Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Wednesday after the Chinese boat fired on two freighters, agency officials said.

Three border security officers on the Chinese ship told agency officials they fired on the two vessels believing they were Chinese vessels engaged in smuggling.

The three uniformed men possessed identity cards issued by Beijing's Ministry of Public Security and said they were border control officers of China's coastal province of Zhejiang.

The Chinese vessel had 26 others aboard besides the three security officers. Three automatic pistols were found in the ship's cabin.

Some 10 shots were fired Tuesday [2 February] afternoon at the 2,412-ton Japanese cargo ship Zusho in the

East China Sea some 150 kilometers northwest of Kumejima Island, the officials said. The Yusho is owned by the Kagoshima-based Daito Maritime Transport Co.

A Panamanian-registered car transport ship was fired on in the same area Tuesday evening, and the agency sent the patrol boat to investigate.

No damage or casualties were reported, the officials said.

Tokyo, Seoul Conclude Technology Talks

*OW0302111593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1100 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan and South Korea concluded two days of talks here Wednesday on scientific and technological cooperation, agreeing to undertake 41 new joint projects, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said the new projects were selected from 61 put forward at the meeting by the two countries for discussion, including some relating to the transfer of Japanese technology to South Korea.

It was the sixth meeting of the Japan-South Korea Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation since August 1988.

Officials said there was also agreement on continuing 101 of the 123 projects agreed on at the committee's last meeting in November 1991 in Seoul.

Most of the new projects were of a highly specialist nature, such as those for supercritical fluid utilization technology and research on automatic monitoring of water quality.

Officials anticipated that some proposed projects not agreed on would be done so later through diplomatic channels.

They said the two sides also discussed promotion of exchanges of information, reciprocal visits by experts, and training programs.

The two countries also agreed to hold the next meeting around next January in Seoul.

Philippines' Romulo on 'Comfort Women' Issue

*OW0302154793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1530 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Philippine Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo on Wednesday urged Japan to resolve the issue of Filipino "comfort women" forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Romulo told Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe that Manila wants to see the matter resolved in a "quiet and uncontentious manner."

Romulo, who arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday for a five-day official visit, did not mention any specific measure to settle the matter.

It was the first time the comfort women issue has been raised in bilateral talks at such a level between Japan and the Philippines, officials said.

Historians estimate 100,000-200,000 Asian women, mostly Koreans, were taken to wartime brothels at frontline camps during the war to provide sex to Japanese soldiers.

Several groups of former comfort women from South Korea are currently engaged in court battles in Japan seeking a formal apology and payment of compensation for the sufferings they endured.

In the meeting with Watanabe, Romulo, however, did not mention the idea of establishing a foundation to finance support for former Filipino comfort women, which Philippine President Fidel Ramos is reported to be planning to propose when he visits Tokyo probably in mid-March.

Watanabe told Romulo that Japan regrets the wartime suffering it inflicted upon Asians and that the government is still considering how it can most appropriately express its remorse.

Watanabe offered a "sincere response" to the Philippines request, the officials said.

A nongovernment task force in Manila says it has confirmed some 1 former Filipino comfort women who are claiming compensation and demanding a formal apology from Japan, which occupied the Philippines from 1942 to 1945.

Meanwhile, Watanabe expressed Japan's regret over the damage and loss of life in the Philippines caused by Tuesday's eruption of the Mayon Volcano 330 kilometers south of Manila. At least 28 people are known to have been killed, and 17 others are missing.

He told Romulo that Japan is prepared to offer emergency relief assistance once it receives a request from the Philippines.

Officials said Romulo asked Japan to extend to his country as much official development assistance (ODA) as possible.

In particular, he called for the early disbursement of Japan's 18th loan package for the Philippines, some of which has already been pledged at an international donors meeting in Hong Kong in March 1992.

Japan, which is Manila's largest aid benefactor, will be joining other international donors at a World Bank-sponsored Philippine aid pledging session scheduled for Paris in June.

Responding to Romulo's call for Japanese companies to invest more in the Philippines, Watanabe was quoted as saying the country must improve its investment environment and infrastructure.

Japanese investment in the Philippines, second after that of the United States, dropped 77.8 percent in 1992 from the previous year due to a wave of kidnappings and continuing electricity shortages.

Watanabe plugged Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, saying that Japan is picking up a large financial burden in the world body and is contributing some 30 percent of the cost of U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Romulo acknowledged Japan's financial burden, telling Watanabe it should be "appropriately recognized in the context of the Security Council."

Touching on the departure of U.S. military forces from bases in the Philippines, Romulo was quoted as saying his country was in the process of "soul-searching" with regard to its relations henceforth with the United States.

Romulo told Watanabe that Manila still considers U.S. forces as a factor in stability of the region, noting a territorial dispute between the Philippines, China, Vietnam and Malaysia over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Government Establishes Ties With Slovakia

*OW0302063193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0544 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan established diplomatic relations Wednesday with Slovakia, the Foreign Ministry announced.

The move follows Japan's establishment of ties with the Czech Republic last Friday.

The two republics, which were born out of the dissolution of Czechoslovakia, were recognized by Japan at the time of their January 1 separation.

Officials said Japan will maintain its embassy in the Czech capital of Prague, while using that diplomatic mission to handle its relations with Slovakia.

The two republics are sharing the former Czechoslovakian Embassy in Tokyo, using different wings of the building and separate entrances.

In December 1991, Japan pledged a 200 million dollar loan to Czechoslovakia from the Export-Import Bank of Japan, some 150 million dollars of which had already been disbursed at the time of the splitup.

Ministry sources said the remaining portion will be disbursed at a ratio of two-thirds for the Czech Republic and a third for Slovakia.

Firms File Claims on Iraq for War Damage

*OW0202115793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japanese companies are likely to claim damages of more than 100 million dollars incurred in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, officials said Tuesday.

To date, 28 companies have filed claims worth 71 million dollars with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), though calculation of losses by Arabian Oil Co., whose oil storage facilities in Saudi Arabia were destroyed, has been delayed, MITI officials said.

The eventual total of all claims is expected to top 100 million dollars, filed by about 30 firms, the officials said.

The ministry will forward the claims by the end of March to the United Nations, which is settling claims in the wake of the Persian Gulf war, they said.

However, there is still no prospect of those companies receiving compensation for the losses, they said.

Reimbursement for the damages was expected to be covered by 30 percent or 480 million dollars out of the proceeds from the sale, under U.N. control, of 1.6 billion dollars' worth of Iraqi crude oil and petroleum. But Iraq has refused to go along with the scheme, the officials said.

Under the U.N. plan, companies can claim compensation for the repair of offices and oil refining facilities, as well as costs for evacuating resident workers from Kuwait after Iraq invaded in August 1990, they said.

Among the 28 companies are trading houses, construction firms, automakers, and electrical businesses, they said.

The damage claims are larger than the ministry's initial estimates because losses incurred through Iraq's destruction of oil-related facilities were found to be greater than expected, the officials said.

The largest claim among Japanese companies may come from Arabian Oil Co., they said.

Arabian Oil is now in the process of calculating damages to its office in Kuwait, as well as to its oil field in Saudi Arabia, which was forced to suspend operation because of Iraq's rocket bombing, they said.

Although about 100 Japanese companies probably sustained damage, many of them apparently decided against filing claims with the U.N. because the Japanese Government's trade insurance may cover 70 to 80 percent of their losses, the officials said.

The slight prospects of the compensation being paid, as well as time-consuming U.N. procedures requiring more

than three years to complete, also discouraged companies from seeking to recoup damages, they said.

Australian Opposition on Good Ties With Tokyo

*OW0202112293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Australia's shadow Foreign Minister Sen. Robert Hill pledged here Tuesday that his country's conservative opposition coalition would maintain good relations with Japan if it wins the forthcoming national election, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Hill, who arrived in Japan earlier Tuesday at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry, offered the reassurances in a half-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, officials said.

Hill told Watanabe he wanted to come to Tokyo before the federal elections for both houses of parliament, slated for April or May, to demonstrate the importance his coalition of liberal and national parties attaches to relations with Japan.

He also told Watanabe the coalition does not differ substantially with the present Labor Party government when it comes to policies pertaining to Japan and the Asia-Pacific region.

Differences, he was quoted as saying, center mainly on ways of dealing with internal problems faced by Australia.

Opinion polls in Australia show the race between the Labor Party and the opposition coalition is in a dead heat. The election must be held by mid-May, but Prime Minister Paul Keating is reportedly considering holding the election in early April.

Japan has been watching the election with considerable interest in view of increasingly close ties between the two countries.

Mexican President Postpones Visit to Tokyo

*OW0302033693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari called off his planned [words indistinct] visit to Japan on Wednesday, telling Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in a telephone call that he will come in the fall instead, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Miyazawa expressed regret about the postponement in the five-minute conversation and said the government will arrange a new schedule for the visit through diplomatic channels, they said.

Salinas was quoted as saying "relations between Japan and Mexico are very important," to which Miyazawa replied, "I share your opinion. I also place importance (on the relations)."

Officials said Salinas was to visit Japan in April as a state guest but the trip was postponed because it became difficult to arrange a meeting with Emperor Akihito. The Mexican president last visited Japan in June 1990.

Mitsuzuka Suggests Addition to Article 9

*OW0302082593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Senior Liberal Democratic Party politician Hiroshi Mitsuzuka proposed Wednesday that Japan add a clause to the war-renouncing Article 9 of its Constitution to enable it to fully participate in UN military activities.

"All we have to do is add a Section 3 to Article 9 saying that the preceding paragraphs will not apply if and when the UN makes the decision," Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, told a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

Article 9 reads, "Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

"In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

Japan maintains Self-Defense Forces (SDF), but under current laws they are permitted to use force only when defending Japan.

Last year parliament passed a law allowing the SDF to undertake limited tasks in UN peacekeeping operations overseas.

Mitsuzuka told foreign reporters that Japan must decide to what extent it can participate in UN efforts requiring force before it can hope to obtain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

"We have to address this issue sincerely in Japan so that if and when Japan is asked to join the permanent members of the Security Council, we will be able to respond appropriately," he said.

Mitsuzuka acknowledged that revision of the Constitution would invite contentious debate and called for an "80 percent" consensus among Japanese before Japan could press a claim for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

He said he expects the LDP's research commission on the Constitution to come up with a midterm report on revising the charter by the end of the current Diet session in mid-June.

Mitsuzuka, leader of the largest of the ruling party's six factions, expressed concern about China's recent military buildup, saying it "runs counter to the changing times in the world."

"We must come up firmly against China so that China will correct its stance," he said, denying that Japan was more accommodating to its giant neighbor than Western industrialized countries.

Asked about signals that U.S. President Bill Clinton will take an aggressive stance on Japan-U.S. trade issues, Mitsuzuka said he is "not surprised at all."

Clinton was elected amid heightened expectations that he will spearhead an economic recovery and his actions so far are "within expectations," Mitsuzuka said.

Washington has slapped antidumping tariffs on steel imports from Japan and other countries and has hinted it may seek tariffs on vehicle imports.

Mitsuzuka, a former trade minister, said, "It is the United States which wages managed trade. I have always maintained that."

'No Plans To Withdraw' Troops From Cambodia

OW0302055293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0530 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Wednesday said that despite mounting military tension in Cambodia Japan has no plans to withdraw engineering troops sent to help United Nations-led peacekeeping activities.

Miyazawa told the House of Representatives Budget Committee that the principle of ceasefire has not broken although the Phnom Penh Government launched a full-scale military offensive against the Khmer Rouge guerrilla group on Monday.

U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Spokesman Eric Berman said it was the largest offensive since U.N. peacekeepers arrived last March.

Miyazawa, responding to Masao Hori of Japan's largest opposition Social Democratic Party, said the framework of the Paris peace accord is intact because neither the Phnom Penh government nor the Khmer Rouge said they plan to defy the agreement.

The agreement was signed in October 1991 to end 13 years of civil war.

The prime minister said he doubted that the rising military tension in Cambodia will develop into a full-fledged war.

He quoted Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Yukio Imagawa as saying that despite ceasefire treaty violations it was unlikely to widen into a major conflict.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe echoed Miyazawa's remarks, saying there are no plans to pull out Self-Defense Forces because UNTAC believes the Phnom Penh Government and the Khmer Rouge both plan to adhere to the peace accord.

Watanabe also said that Tokyo urged the Phnom Penh government to exercise self-restraint in engaging in military actions.

Japan's U.N. peacekeeping legislation passed last summer requires Tokyo to withdraw its personnel from U.N. operations in case of a breakdown of the ceasefire.

Freeze Sought on Sending Monitors to Cambodia

OW0302063493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0546 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The All Japan Prefectural and Municipal Worker's Union said Wednesday it has asked the Home Affairs Ministry to freeze its recruitment and dispatch of personnel for election monitoring missions in Cambodia.

Union officials told Home Affairs Minister Keijiro Murata that the preconditions for Japan's role in U.N.-sanctioned peacekeeping efforts abroad are not being met because of rising tensions in the war-torn country.

It also called on the ministry not to force regional governments and their employees to join the Japanese election monitoring team, the officials said.

The union also reportedly instructed its chapters nationwide to negotiate with authorities to halt any attempt to have prefectural and municipal employees put up as candidates for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

In response to the union's request, the Home Affairs Ministry promised it will not rush into having regional governments and their workers taking part in the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, the officials said.

Under its agreement to join U.N. peacekeeping activities, Japan is bound not to send election monitoring personnel to Cambodia if their safety is compromised. The ministry noted that is not the case at the moment.

The government's principles stipulating conditions for sending Japanese peacekeepers overseas call for a consent from all parties involved there and a ceasefire agreement among them.

The union said it has issued a directive to its regional chapters seeking confirmation that union members, including those who have enlisted, will not forcibly be sent to Cambodia, the officials said.

On January 7, the Home Affairs Ministry asked all prefectures and major cities to recommend candidates for the 50-member election monitoring team.

Yasuhiko Endo, the Home Affairs Ministry's deputy vice minister for policy coordination, commenting on the union's request, said, "As the government takes a view that the dispatch has yet to reach the point of being canceled at the moment, the Home Affairs Ministry has no choice but to do our job solemnly."

SDF Officers' Service in UN Mission Viewed

OW0302120893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb. 3 KYODO—Three officers of Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) are serving in the military command of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, informed sources said Wednesday.

This might contravene the Japanese Government policy of banning SDF personnel from taking part in military aspects of the UN peacekeeping activities, Japanese political sources said.

In Tokyo, the Defense Agency said the three SDF men are working as liaison officers tasked with making necessary arrangements between the headquarters of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and its peacekeeping units.

However, Japanese policy guidelines on SDF participation in the UN mission in Cambodia do not include having Japanese peacekeepers serve as military officers in UNTAC.

They also ban participation in the peacekeeping force, and armed operations such as separating warring armies during ceasefires until an additional legislative measure is adopted.

The three Japanese officers comprise one lieutenant colonel and two majors of the Ground Self-Defense Force.

The lieutenant colonel is in effect deputy chief of a planning section of UNTAC's military branch, which has over 15,000 personnel from 32 countries.

One of the majors is serving as a mission coordinator in charge of aviation affairs at a section handling the movements of peacekeeping units and transportation of supplies, while the other is working at an engineering section where Japanese engineering personnel belong.

Currently, about 260 staff officers are serving in the headquarters of UNTAC's military branch, according to UNTAC officials.

Contrary to the Defense Agency's explanation, the three SDF men are listed as military staff officers in an address book of the UN peacekeeping mission in Cambodia.

In addition, an UNTAC source said all the Japanese officers are part of the headquarters' military staff both in name and in reality.

UNTAC has already asked the major serving as a mission coordinator to stay on even after the engineer units currently working in Cambodia are replaced by fresh units in April, UNTAC sources said.

Jiro Hagi, deputy chief of Japan's peacekeeping cooperation headquarters, said in Tokyo he wants to seek further information from Cambodia.

While acknowledging the dispatch of three liaison officers to UNTAC headquarters, a top-ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry official said it does not violate a law designed to cooperate with the UN in promoting peacekeeping efforts abroad.

The three "are liaison officers who are to smooth out the execution of (the SDF) engineering troops' operations," the official said.

Local Groups Refuse Officials to UNTAC

OW0302154193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1520 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Amid renewed fighting in Cambodia, at least 11 local autonomous bodies in Japan have failed to respond to government requests to contribute officials for a Japanese election monitoring team to be sent there, KYODO News Service learned Wednesday.

A KYODO survey found three prefectural and eight city governments are reluctant to comply with the request to recommend officials to help the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) monitor the Cambodian general election scheduled for May.

The poll covered a total of 47 prefectures and the 12 biggest cities in Japan.

The U.N.-supervised May election is being held to select legislators for a parliament which will be commissioned to draw up a democratic constitution for the nation.

The government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa requested in January that autonomous bodies recommend officials fluent in foreign languages who have experience of election-related administration or international exchanges.

The government plans to send 50 civil servants as well as private citizens to Cambodia from April on a mission lasting three to four weeks.

The 11 autonomous bodies said they declined the government request as they are concerned about the safety of their officials, who may be enmeshed in some armed conflicts if sent to Cambodia.

But nine prefectural governments did recommend at least 11 staffers who were selected or offered to go, the poll found.

The nine prefectures were Iwate, Miyagi, Akita, Gunma, Saitama, Shizuoka, Aichi, Okayama and Kumamoto.

However, three of the nine—Iwate, Gunma and Saitama—said they still have misgivings about the situation in Cambodia.

There were 27 prefectural or city governments from which no officials applied to go to Cambodia, according to the poll.

A Home Affairs Ministry official in charge of the issue told KYODO, "We do not believe the situation in Cambodia has yet deteriorated to a point where the government would have to give up its plan to send Japanese officials."

However, the official said that some municipalities are undergoing a delay in recruiting officials who would agree to go to Cambodia, where the Phnom Penh Government recently intensified military strikes on the positions of the Khmer Rouge Communist guerrillas throughout the war-ravaged country.

Eight out of Japan's 12 largest cities responded that they would place priority on ensuring the safety of their civil servants. All 12 said they would never send their officials to Cambodia.

Two of the 12 cities—Hiroshima and Fukuoka—said they decided against recommending their officials, although some of the officials voluntarily applied for permits to go there.

The prefecture of Okinawa declined to recommend any, saying there are antiwar feelings among its officials due to its experience of being a World War II battlefield.

The city of Nagoya also rejected the request, saying even a temporary enrollment of its officials onto central government payrolls might place the officials at a disadvantage when it comes to future retirement benefit payments.

Last September, Japan dispatched three officials, including an official of a local autonomous body, to monitor a national election in Angola as part of the U.N. peacekeeping operations in the nation.

Miyazawa Supports Aid to Developing Nations

OW0202053493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0528 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa supported a Trade Ministry plan to promote the recycling of Japan's trade surplus for aid to developing nations, government officials said Tuesday.

The officials said Miyazawa called the plan a good idea after being briefed on the project Tuesday by Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of International Trade and Industry.

Tanahashi told Miyazawa his ministry plans to revise the existing law governing export insurance to cover untied loans provided by financial institutions and trading houses to finance projects overseas, the officials said.

They said the ministry will submit a bill to revise the law to the current session of the Diet for approval.

The ministry plans to set aside 310 billion yen for the export insurance reserves in fiscal 1993, which begins April 1, they said.

Panel: LDP To Promote Reform Package

OW0202100093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) panel to promote major political reform confirmed Tuesday that the governing party will present a package of political reform bills to the Diet in the form of legislator-proposed legislation, LDP officials said.

The LDP's Political Reform Promotion Headquarters also reaffirmed that the legislation should be drafted and deliberated as a package because the reform proposals "are inseparable from one another," Keizo Obuchi, acting head of the panel, was quoted as saying.

However, the group decided to look further into the technical possibility of incorporating the proposals in a single bill, the officials said.

The headquarters, headed by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, will draft the package of bills in accordance with basic policies approved by the LDP's Executive Council toward the end of last year.

Those policies include the introduction of a single-seat constituency system for House of Representatives elections and a ban on the delivery and receipt of political funds among individual lawmakers.

They also include creation of a system to provide subsidies for parties contesting elections and an end to cabinet ministers being selected on the basis of factional strengths and hierarchies.

The panel has a 17-member working-level group, tasked with coordinating party opinion for drafting the reform bills.

It also agreed to solicit opinions once again from LDP Diet members in building a consensus over the proposed introduction of single-seat constituencies to the lower chamber, the officials said.

'Dwindling' Population Effects Assembly Seats

OW0202100193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—About 96 percent of 2,574 towns and villages across Japan have cut their statutory assembly seats because of dwindling populations, according to an official report Tuesday.

The report, by an association of towns and village assembly speakers, said 2,479 towns and villages reduced law-assigned seats by 15,077 to 42,793 as of July

1, 1992. There are 57,870 seats allocated to assemblies of towns and villages across the country.

Village and town assemblies currently occupy 42,354 seats because of vacancies caused by deaths and resignations, the report said.

Of 42,354 assembly members, women total 842, up from 523 five [years] ago and up from 305 a decade ago, the report said.

It said 2,794 assemblies made domestic inspection trips inside and outside their villages and towns in 1991.

It said one quarter, or 666 assemblies, made a total of 818 overseas trips in 1991. The trips involved 4,577 assembly members.

The report said assembly speakers on average get 254,679 yen a month and assembly members 187,184 yen.

A breakdown of political affiliations of assemblies across the country showed that 37,901 are independent, 1,920 Japanese Communist Party, 1,002 Komeito, 827 Social Democratic Party, 579 ruling Liberal Democratic Party, and 96 Democratic Socialist Party members, plus 29 members of various minor parties.

Assembly members are on average 58.3 in age, the report said.

Opposition Demands Diet Summoning of Takeshita

OW0302074193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Three opposition parties formally demanded Wednesday that former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and five others be summoned to the Diet to testify under oath about their alleged involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

The Social Democratic Party, the largest opposition force, and the two centrist parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—made the demand in a meeting of directors of the House of Representatives' Budget Committee.

Among others called by the opposition camp to testify before the Diet are Shin Kanemaru, former vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), former LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, and Kiyoshi Sagawa, owner of the Sagawa Kyubin trucking company group.

Takeshita was called to the Diet as a sworn witness twice in late November and early December to testify about his alleged role.

The opposition parties, however, demanded that Takeshita be summoned again, saying he may have committed perjury during his earlier testimony.

Takeshita is suspected of having asked for mobster help in stopping a smear campaign by a rightist group against him in October 1987 when he was vying for LDP presidency, which carries with it the premiership.

The debate on the draft budget for fiscal 1993 was resumed Wednesday at the lower house budget committee after the ruling and opposition parties agreed to hear testimony from February 17 to 19 by witnesses allegedly involved in the scandal.

The LDP and opposition camp, however, failed to agree on who should be called to the Diet as sworn witnesses.

The LDP is reported ready to accept an opposition demand for Ozawa's summoning after he expressed willingness to testify under oath at the Diet.

EPA Director Indicates Support for Rate Cut

OW0202024793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0220 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The head of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) indicated Tuesday that he favors a cut in Japan's official discount rate.

Speaking at a regular press conference after a morning cabinet meeting, EPA Director General Hajima Funada said he thought it "would not be strange if the official rate is cut."

He also said some kind of monetary policy could be considered given the nation's general economic situation, including an anemic stock market.

"It may not, however, come immediately," Funada said, quickly adding that the decision is up to the Bank of Japan.

Funada did not make any comments on the scale of a cut in the benchmark rate.

Bank Governor Supports Discount Rate Cut

OW0302092293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0823 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Tokyo, Feb 3 KYODO—Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno said Wednesday there is a need for measures to support the worse-than-expected economic conditions, supporting comments by a central bank source that a discount rate cut will be made Thursday.

The source said at around the same time Mieno held an exclusive interview with KYODO News Service the central bank is likely to slash its official discount rate by 0.75 percentage point to 2.50 percent per annum.

The move will be decided by a meeting of the bank's policy-making board Thursday [4 February] and will be effective immediately, he said.

The cut would be the sixth in the current phase of monetary easing and reduces the rate to its previous low

of 2.50 percent, which lasted from February 23, 1987 to May 1987, when it was hiked to 3.25 percent.

Mieno said, "The economy remains in a severe adjustment phase," and this is even starting to spread to regional smaller enterprises "in which the effects of the bubble economy had been said to be relatively small."

Such conditions as the spreading of adjustment to regional economies were discussed at last week's central bank branch managers' meeting.

Also hinting at the need for the bank's move, Mieno said "capital investment remains weak, and personal consumption is slowing" despite the government's economic packages.

Meanwhile, the steady progress in inventory reduction is gradually setting the fundamentals for the economy to recovery, Mieno said.

"With fiscal stimulus strengthening at such a pace, cumulative effects of credit easing will also appear," he said.

The governor also reiterated the central bank will pin all its efforts to regain public confidence in the financial system.

But despite the bank's decision to go ahead with the long-anticipated cut in the key lending rate, economists are doubtful as to what it can do to prop up the economy.

Yasunori Takahashi, senior economist at the Industrial Bank of Japan, said, "You can't expect any immediate magic from the rate cut."

He said, however, that it will certainly help improve corporate balance sheets, not only of struggling financial institutions, but private enterprises in general.

Some analysts say the announcement could be timely in that it could boost the confidence of companies beginning to plan their plant and equipment spending for next fiscal year, which begins April 1.

Some economists are already talking about another reduction sometime near the July summit meeting in Tokyo of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations.

Given Japan's trade surplus of over 100 billion dollars in 1992, Japan is likely to face concerted criticism at the G-7 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers expected to be held before the summit, and more at the summit itself if there are no efforts by Japan to stimulate domestic demand, the analysts say.

They say a further credit easing could take place in combination with a fresh fiscal package, in addition to the pump-priming measures announced by the government last August.

Ozaki Urges Miyazawa To Avoid Tax Cut

*OW0202110593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Mamoru Ozaki urged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday to maintain the government's policy of opposition to an income tax reduction, a Finance Ministry official said.

The possibility of an income tax reduction is one of the major debates being carried out in the current regular session of the Diet.

Calls for a tax cut have been mounting from opposition parties, business leaders, and even some ruling Liberal Democratic Party officials, on grounds that it would give a boost to both consumer and capital spending.

But the Finance Ministry has been strongly against such a scheme, saying that under the current tight revenue conditions it would lead to the flotation of deficit-financing bonds, leaving the burden to the future generation.

The ministry has also been questioning its effectiveness as a pump-priming measure compared with other means like public works investments.

The official, who attended the top-level meeting, told reporters that Ozaki called on Miyazawa along with other senior ministry officials and that they discussed tax revenues, especially those for December, when the income from newly introduced land tax turned out to be much higher than initial estimates.

Ozaki explained to Miyazawa that, since the supplementary budget was compiled in September, there has been no change in the forecast of overall tax revenue for the current fiscal year, the official said.

He denied there was any talk about monetary policy at the meeting, which lasted more than an hour. Speculation is mounting that the Bank of Japan will cut its official discount rate at any moment in a bid to stimulate the sluggish economy.

The prime minister made no specific requests of Ozaki, the official said.

North Korea

Vice Foreign Minister Assesses Kunadze Visit

*SK0202232493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2240
GMT 2 Feb 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, February 2 (KCNA)—Kang Sok-chu, first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave the following answer to the question raised by KCNA today as regards the Korean visit by Georgiy Kunadze, vice-minister of foreign affairs, as a special envoy of the Russian president:

During his visit to Korea from January 29 to February 1 the special envoy exchanged with the Korean side views on issue of friendly relations between Korea and Russia and a series of matters. Expressing positive intention to restore the traditional relations of friendship between Korea and Russia on the basis of the treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance signed in 1961, the special envoy made detailed proposals on cooperation in various domains including contact and exchange between the two foreign ministries of Korea and Russia and between the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Russian Parliament.

The sides shared the same views on normalizing the friendly relations between the two countries.

There were also differences of views on a series of international issues at the conversation.

Such differences are nothing strange in the light of the present changed situation in Russia.

While having a conversation the special envoy expressed his understanding, saying that he came to have fresh knowledge of our stand.

We made it clear to him that the attempt of the Russian side to have matters not directly related to it deeply involved in the bilateral relations between the two countries does not accord with the general principle governing state relations and, moreover, it is quite contrary to their desire to promote friendship.

The special envoy pointed out that they would adopt their policy corresponding to our stand.

He remarked that the reunification of Korea should be achieved by the Korean people themselves according to the agreement reached between the North and the South under any circumstances.

It was stressed at the conversation that it is important for both sides to strictly abide by the basic principles of state relations such as independence, mutual respect, non-interference in other's internal affairs and respect for freedom of choice. There was a consensus of views on this.

CPRF Official Meets Press on Nuclear Issues

*SK0202151293 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1313 GMT 28 Jan 93*

[News conference by Ho Hyon-pil, deputy director of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Secretariat, with unidentified North Korean correspondents at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on 28 January—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I will ask a question first. I am a NODONG SINMUN reporter. What do you think is the basic problem that must be solved on a priority basis to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula?

[Ho] Various problems must be solved to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. An especially urgent and important problem, among them, is for the United States to completely withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea and make public the withdrawal throughout the world and accept full inspections of nuclear bases.

The nuclear issue was first raised on the Korean peninsula when the United States introduced nuclear weapons into the Korean peninsula. It has not been resolved because there are still U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea.

The nuclear issue has been referred to in various ways. We have not thought of manufacturing nuclear weapons or have we manufactured them. We have no capability to manufacture them. We have not introduced nuclear weapons from foreign countries, either. Therefore, problems lie in the United States in achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula: Withdrawing the U.S. nuclear weapons is the most important problem.

The South Korean authorities' maneuvers to build nuclear weapons, which has recently been disclosed, must be deterred. Nuclear weapons deployed in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula must be withdrawn, as well. As long as there are nuclear weapons in bases in Guam, Okinawa, and other Pacific islands, we cannot say that a nuclear danger has been removed completely. This is my answer to that question.

[Correspondent] I am a Korean Central News Agency reporter. I want to know (?what countries concerned can do) to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula?

[Ho] The basic spirit of the joint denuclearization declaration, which the North and South have adopted and effectuated, is for the North and South to independently achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. If the Korean peninsula is not denuclearized and if nuclear weapons remain there, a nuclear war may break out at anytime. If a nuclear war breaks out, not foreigners but our fellow countrymen living in our fatherland will suffer the greatest calamities. Therefore, we have the greatest interest. Then, are only our fellow countrymen responsible for achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula? I think countries concerned must have a sense of responsibility and fulfill their responsibility.

The first among the countries concerned is the United States. The United States must withdraw the nuclear weapons from South Korea because they are its weapons. Other countries concerned must make efforts as well. In particular, Japan's efforts to arm itself with nuclear weapons have posed a significant obstacle to achieving the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

As has recently been reported, the Japanese authorities have been accelerating their nuclear buildup by purchasing a large amount of plutonium from Western countries. I can say that this is another nuclear danger to our fellow countrymen.

Therefore, the United States, Japan, and other countries concerned must abandon their perception of the cold war era and positively cooperate to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. I think this would be not only a good thing for the Korean people but also a necessary thing for the people of those countries.

[Correspondent] Former U.S. President Bush announced that the United States had withdrawn its tactical nuclear weapons from Asia, and the South Korean chief executive issued the declaration that there are no nuclear weapons in South Korea. The statement presented various pieces of evidence to suggest that there remain U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea. Would you elaborate on the evidence? I am a [words indistinct] reporter.

[Ho] As we mentioned in the statement, that there are nuclear weapons in South Korea is not a speculation but a well-grounded fact. First of all, a large number of weapons are deployed in South Korea: We believe [words indistinct], at least, have been introduced into South Korea for the past 35 years.

Some South Korean media say there are 1,700 nuclear weapons. It is practically impossible to furtively withdraw this large number of nuclear weapons in a matter of a few months all of a sudden.

As you know, a large number of nuclear weapons of all sorts have been introduced into South Korea for the past 35 years. The volume of those weapons is enormous. One must take out hundreds or thousands of truckloads to withdraw even a single military base. There are not one or two military bases in South Korea but hundreds of them across South Korea, from areas near the Military Demarcation Line to southern areas. It is impossible to take this amount of truckloads in a few days [as heard] without being seen by anyone.

As you know, [words indistinct]. No South Korean reporter has noticed the withdrawal. This means that the mere declaration or announcement that those nuclear weapons have been withdrawn is not sufficient.

Second of all, there are still nuclear bases, weapons delivery facilities, storage depots, and tactical nuclear units in South Korea. Nuclear weapons or nuclear shells can be hidden in underground storage depots. However, outdoor facilities cannot be hidden. For example, there remain buildings and launchers in Taegu, Kunsan, and other areas. There remain tactical nuclear units, as well.

Third of all, an overseer who personally participated in the construction of nuclear depots and two South Korean workers who served as civilian employees at U.S. nuclear bases have testified to this fact. Moreover, they

[words indistinct] after the declaration that there were no nuclear weapons. They testified that nuclear-powered submarines loaded with nuclear weapons had been making port calls at underground nuclear bases before the declaration and are doing so even at this moment.

Given these facts, the declaration by the South Korean chief executive that there are no nuclear weapons and the declaration by the former U.S. President that the nuclear weapons had been withdrawn are lies. I would like to stress that there are U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and that the policy of turning South Korea into a nuclear base has been carried out in a more cunning manner at present.

[Correspondent] I would like to ask a question. I am a MINJU CHOSON reporter. [passage indistinct]

[Ho] [Passage indistinct] However, (?the United States and the South Korean authorities) have been groundlessly babbling about suspicions of our nuclear development and [words indistinct]. This is very intolerable and ridiculous. The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is not an issue that can be resolved if someone threatens someone else.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula was caused by the United States. The five rounds of nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have more clearly proven that we have no nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, the United States and its followers have groundlessly babbled about suspicions of our so-called nuclear development and tried to exert military pressure. I think they have done so to justify their policy of turning South Korea into a nuclear base and maintain the nuclear weapons in South Korea.

We are not people who do what we should not do or do not do what we should do simply because someone else threatens us militarily. We will not yield to such a military pressure or threat by the United States and the South Korean authorities. After being single-mindedly united around the party and the leader, we will respond to the maneuvers by the enemy against us with a more resolute and principled stand.

[Correspondent] I am a INMINGUN SINMUN reporter. Even though the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] has been formed, it has not been operated smoothly. No progress has been made in discussions of issues. As a result, the joint denuclearization declaration has not been implemented. Would you explain why?

[Ho] A basic reason is that the U.S. nuclear strategy has not changed and that the South Korean authorities have been following the U.S. nuclear strategy without assuming a stand of independence.

As you all know, the U.S. nuclear strategy is to maintain South Korea as a nuclear attack base and to fulfill its insidious goals by threatening countries in its vicinity, including our country.

I will elaborate on how the South Korean authorities are hindering the work of the JNCC. The North and South have formed the JNCC. The South Korean authorities have presented preposterous issues at the talks for discussing rules of inspection. They have insisted that the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be excluded from targets of inspection. They have preposterously insisted on inspections of an equal number of targets, ad hoc inspections [tuksu sachal], special inspections [tukpyol sachal], or inspection of ordinary military bases, which are not stipulated in the joint denuclearization declaration, which had been adopted and effectuated. In this way, they have been building an artificial obstacle to the talks.

As is clear to anyone, the basic targets of nuclear inspections are the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases. Excluding them from the targets of inspections does not comply with the basic spirit of inspections.

We have proposed that the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea be fully inspected based on the principle of simultaneously dispelling doubts. We have also proposed that at such a time, the South Korean side inspect our nuclear facilities which it has said are suspicious. Nevertheless, the South Korean side has groundlessly raised preposterous issues and built obstacles to the talks.

I think if the South Korean side accepts our fair proposal, the issue of implementing the joint denuclearization declaration will be easily resolved in our country.

[Correspondent] I will ask a question. During the so-called news conference, the South Korean president-elect said that the North's nuclear issue must be resolved even with the help of the UN Security Council. Would you tell our listeners of the Central Broadcasting Station what you think of this?

[Ho] Simply put, this is an rash antinational remark designed to fulfill an insidious goal with the help of outside forces. Your question was about the presentation of the North's nuclear issue to the UN Security Council.

We have no nuclear issue what so ever. The nuclear inspections by the IAEA have proven the integrity of our peaceful nuclear policy. We are supposed to receive the IAEA's inspections in the future as well.

If the JNCC is operated smoothly and if the joint denuclearization declaration is implemented through talks, no issue can be raised in our country.

Trying to resolve, in a coercive manner, an issue in the international community with the help of outside forces can in no way be justified, especially when it can easily be resolved in a friendly manner within the nation. I think this antinational crime will surely be denounced by the entire nation.

Belarusian Delegation Arrives 29 Jan

*SK2901114493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101
GMT 29 Jan 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Party of Communists of Belarus led by Co-chairman of the Political Executive Committee Viktor Chikin arrived in Pyongyang today.

It was met at the airport by Kwon Min-chun, vice-director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Meets Choe Tae-pok

*SK0302111693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057
GMT 3 Feb 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly conversation with the delegation of the Party of Communists of Belarus led by Victor Chikin, co-chairman of the political executive committee of the party.

Dailies Laud Ties

*SK0302053093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434
GMT 3 Feb 93*

["First Anniversary of Establishment of Korea-Belarus diplomatic ties"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 3 (KCNA)—Newspapers here today carry by-lined articles on the lapse of one year since diplomatic ties were opened between Korea and Belarus.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Belarus reflected the common aspiration and desire of the two peoples to support and cooperate with each other in the idea of independence, peace and friendship, the article of NODONG SINMUN says, and goes on:

The relations between the two countries have since developed on good terms.

Understanding between the two peoples has deepened through the exchange of visits, contacts and cooperation in various domains.

The friendly relations between Korea and Belarus are beneficial to the two peoples in their work for building a new life.

The Korean people are pleased that they could further develop friendly relations with the Belarus people.

MINJU CHOSON says the Korean people believe that the Korea-Belarus friendship forged under the noble idea of independence, peace and friendship will further expand and develop in the future.

Radio Criticizes Japan's Security Council Aspirations

SK0302063493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 1 Jan 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Absurd Remarks by Presumptuous Fellows"]

[Text] The Japanese authorities have recently openly revealed their plot to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council [UNSC] babbling about their so-called contribution to the international community. High-level Japanese authorities, like Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe, raved that if Japan dispatches more troops as part of the UN peacekeeping operations, it will have the right to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and that without Japanese participation, the Security Council lacks reliability. Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa made similar remarks in a so-called policy speech to the parliamentary session, raving about promoting active contribution to the international community.

These are the presumptuous, absurd remarks of those who do not know how to behave to suit their position. The world's peace-loving people, as well as the people of our country and Asia, are enraged by this.

As everyone knows, Japan is a country which committed war crimes that imposed untold misfortune and suffering on the people of many countries in Asia during World War II. The Japanese imperialists, in our country alone, forcibly drafted and whisked away millions of young men, took away the chastity and lives of some 200,000 women, and ruthlessly massacred some 1 million innocent people. Even now, the women of Asia, including our country, sternly denounce Japan on the issue of the comfort women Japanese imperialists forced into serving their army as sex slaves.

Without proper apology or indemnification for the unpardonable crimes they committed for over a century, Japan is trying to become a permanent member of the Security Council. This leads us to conclude that Japan is heading again down the same road to world domination that the Japanese militarists followed in the past.

Furthermore, having already dispatched its Self-Defense Force troops overseas, followed the road to becoming a military power by equipping itself with nuclear arms, and viciously maneuvered even to revise its constitution, Japan poses a great threat to the peace and security of Asia and the world.

Japan has left the door to dispatching its Self-Defense Forces open by sending its aggressor armed forces to the regions of dispute. Although the Japanese authorities have said that they will not dispatch the Self-Defense Forces troops to participate in combat activity, the real purpose of the dispatch of troops is to participate in military operations.

In realizing the dispatch of their Self-Defense Forces troops overseas, Japanese ruling circles have entered the road of escalating the military aggression overseas. The Japanese dispatch of its Self-Defense Forces overseas and its scheme to become a military power is an act of threatening peace and security in Asia and the world. In particular, the Japanese maneuvers to equip itself with nuclear arms cause the world's peace-loving people to worry deeply.

The Japanese ruling circles have brought enormous quantities of plutonium from France into Japan in spite of the expressions of concern and opposition by the entire world. Stockpiling great quantities of nuclear material, the Japanese ruling circles are actively accelerating their nuclear armament scheme. The Japanese ruling circles are increasing the military budget every year to strengthen the Self-Defense Forces both in quality and in quantity, building up offensive weapons and equipment to make inroads into the broad regions of Asia and the Pacific. Abandoning the three nonnuclear principles, Japan is not only bringing the U.S. Army's nuclear armed forces into Japanese territory but is accelerating its scheme to equip itself with nuclear arms. If Japan has the authority of being a permanent member of the Security Council, it will undoubtedly dare to do anything to serve its own interests.

Without indemnification for their great crimes on the people of the world in the past, Japan endeavors to realize the old dream of the Great East-Asian Co-prosperity Sphere, by attempting to gain a seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council at all costs. Japan schemes to become a political power exercising the right to voice and influence international issues and hopes to use the United Nations as an arena for realizing its political and military ambition.

If Japan is allowed to become a permanent member of the Security Council, it would mean that the world community permits the revival of Japanese militarism. This will be an intolerable defilement of the tens of millions of people who were victimized by the Japanese imperialists and will leave a permanent stain on world history. The Japanese authorities should abandon their presumptuous illusion, properly apologize and indemnify themselves for the great, unpardonable crimes they perpetrated against our people and the people of the world, and stop immediately their maneuvers to become military power and to equip itself with nuclear arms.

NODONG SINMUN Urges Japan To 'Liquidate the Past'

SK0102043393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 1 Feb 93

[“Who Would Believe Japan's Empty Talk”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—Japanese authorities are resorting to crafty artifices to win “international confidence”.

Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa in his policy speech at the Diet talked about "reflection on the old history" and "sincere and modest attitude" towards other countries. During his tour of Southeast Asian countries, he stated that Japan would "not become a military power again."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that Japan must prove in action the truth of its talk, if it is to get international confidence.

The analyst stresses:

If Japan is to get international confidence, it must, first of all, fully atone for its crime-ridden past and must not try to become a military power nor seek overseas expansion. Only then would people give up misgivings and apprehensions and express confidence in Japan. Japanese authorities, however, do not repent of their past while paying lip service to "repentance" and are working to turn Japan into a military power and seeking overseas expansion while talking about "a peaceful state."

Japan has increased military spendings year after year, strengthened the "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF) both in quality and quantity and promoted nuclear armament, stockpiling more plutonium than needed while advertising adherence to the three non-nuclear principles.

It overtly plans to revise the laws and norms which restrict military action of the "SDF" in other countries.

Facts show that what Japanese authorities say is different from what they do, and they have two faces. Who would believe Japan that is steadily building armaments and pursuing overseas expansion while failing to liquidate the past full of crimes? It is not fortuitous that Asian countries distrust and guard against Japan.

If Japan is to get international confidence, it must liquidate the past properly and discard its desire to realize its old dream of "the greater east Asia coprosperity sphere." This is necessary for its own sake.

Give Up Constitutional Amendment

*SK2901053293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0430
GMT 29 Jan 93*

[**"NODONG SINMUN Lambastes Japanese Ruling Quarters Seeking War of Aggression"—KCNA headline**]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—Japan should cool its head overheated with the design of overseas aggression, give up constitutional amendment and follow the road of peace as demanded by the people, says NODONG SINMUN today.

Commenting on the Japanese ruling quarters' campaign for the revision of the constitution intended to pave the way of a war of aggression, the analyst notes:

The high-level authorities of the Japanese Government and ruling Liberal Democratic Party are crying for a constitutional amendment, claiming that Japan's

"peace-keeping activities are restricted" by the constitution banning a settlement of international disputes by force of arms.

The Japanese ruling circles captive to the desire for overseas expansion are seeking to freely commit armed intervention in other nations and regions by removing all the factors hindering war and having a free hand in military action.

For the present, Japan intends to form its sphere of influence in the Asia-Pacific region by force of arms and realize its old dream of "the greater east Asia coprosperity sphere". This was made plain when Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa stated recently that Japan will continue dispatching military personnel for "U.N. peace-keeping activities" and "contribute to the security and stability of the Asia-Pacific region".

Japan which had invaded Asia and imposed immeasurable disasters upon the Asian people in the past is now trying to open the way of war without fully atoning for its grave crimes. This shows that Japan wants to repeat its history of aggression.

This means that Japan will perpetrate another irrevocable crime against world peace and mankind. Disaster must be prevented.

Denounces Miyazawa Stance on U.S. Forces

*SK2901114093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1100
GMT 29 Jan 93*

[**"Why Is Japan Trying To Keep U.S. Forces in Asia?"—KCNA headline**]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article denouncing Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa who sought to keep U.S. Forces in Asia while touring Southeast Asian countries recently.

The article says:

The Japanese ruling quarters' argument that the U.S. Forces must stay in Asia even though the Cold War has come to an end shows that they want to maintain the old international relations of domination and subjugation and as ever pursue the dominationist policy. This is particularly motivated by their reinvasion designs in Asia.

The developments in Japan today indicate that the revived militarist forces are raising their heads again to set out on the road of overseas aggression in real earnest.

At a time when the Cold War has ended and the world is advancing toward reduction of military spendings, Japan alone is continuing to increase them largely. The growth rate of Japan's military spendings tops the world's list.

No country poses a threat to Japan militarily. Japan, however, is stepping up arms buildup and making full

preparations for a war with the aim of embarking upon the road of overseas aggression.

Japan is trying to fulfil its reinvasion designs in Asia with the backing of the United States. That is why the Japanese ruling quarters are making a desperate bid to keep the U.S. Forces in Asia.

It is a habitual method of the Japanese militarists to invade other countries with the backing of big imperialist forces.

However hard the Japanese ruling quarters may try to keep the U.S. Forces in Asia, their attempts are bound to end in failure.

Radio Urges Increased Electricity Production

SK0302074593 Pyongyang Korean Central

Broadcasting Network in Korean 0838 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Unattributed talk: "Increasing Electricity Production Is a Priority Demand in the Development of the People's Economy"]

[Text] By highly upholding the great leader's New Year address, all the people of the whole nation are consistently rising with the determination to bring about a great upsurge in economic building in such a significant year as this, the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Fatherland Liberation War. More than any time before, we are faced with the important task of producing and supplying more electricity, the basic power in production.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: In economic building, the main link in which we must concentrate efforts on is the coal industry, electric industry, and metal industry.

Electricity is one of the main links in which we must concentrate efforts on. It is also an essential prerequisite in the development of the people's economy. A large amount of electricity is needed to bring about rapid development of all sectors of the people's economy like industry, agriculture, and transportation. By doing so, production and construction can be accelerated vigorously to demonstrate the might, justness, and the invincible vitality of the system of our own style of socialism.

Currently, the potential of the independent national economy of our country is great. By further strengthening the mighty economic foundation formed on self-reliance and fortitude, and proving its worth, our party demands that a great revolutionary upsurge be brought about in socialist economic construction.

If the infinite production potential is to prove its great worth, electricity, the basic power of production, needs to be produced in larger quantity and used more effectively. Thus it is possible to continue to normalize production at a high level in all sectors of the people's economy and rapidly achieve chucheization, modernization, and scientification of the people's economy.

There should be a large amount of electricity so that coal and iron and steel production can be increased. Moreover it is needed to operate light industry plants at full capacity, which will result, in turn, in the production of more consumer goods like cloth and daily necessities. It is also possible to augment the rural economy's high level of irrigation and vigorously press ahead with mechanization and chemicalization.

Smooth production to better meet the increasing demand of the people's economy for electricity is one of the important guarantees to high manifestation of the unprecedented superiority of socialism of our own style in the economic field, which is being implemented by accelerating the new general advance movement.

All sectors and units, as well as functionaries and workers in the electric industry sector and its related sectors, should concentrate efforts on first increasing electricity production and actively carry out the struggle to maximize efficient use.

What is most important is that the functionaries and workers of the electric industry sector produce more electricity by mobilizing the existing capacity for electrical power generation.

Due to the wise leadership of the great leader and our party, many large hydroelectric power stations and thermoelectric power stations were constructed through correct distribution in our country, and they have great production potential. Many small and medium-sized power stations were also constructed throughout the country. If we use the existing capacity of these power stations effectively, a large amount of electricity can be produced to smoothly meet the economy's demand for electricity.

Reserves for electricity production are limitless. In his New Year address, the great leader has taught that success in revolution and construction depends on how the masses' revolutionary enthusiasm and creativeness is organized and mobilized.

Our guiding functionaries are the core forces of revolution and are members of the command to carry out operations and organizational work. The duty of the guiding functionaries are very important in this year's battle and the party and the leader have great expectations of them.

Functionaries in the electric power industry sector should properly carry out operations to increase production of electric power by firmly giving priority to political work that conforms to our demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit, the Chongsan-ri method, and the Taean work system created by our party, to arouse the masses.

We now have abundant reserves and potentials for increasing production. When functionaries in the electric power industry sector immerse themselves deeply in reality to successfully carry out work with people with revolutionary work traits and up-to-date work style, and

properly command combat in accordance with specific realities, great innovations can be effected in electric power production.

Functionaries in the electric power industry sector should rack their brains more than anybody else to find a way of implementing the militant task assigned to their sector by the great leader in his New Year's address. Along with producers, they should improve the timely repair of facilities and actively introduce new technology so that they can promote efficiency of water mills, generators, boilers, and turbines.

In order to produce large amounts of electric power by utilizing the existing capacity for electricity generation most efficiently, it is mandatory to produce enough coal and to smoothly supply it to thermal power plants.

With great enthusiasm, miners have launched into the new year's combat, upholding the great leader's New Year's address. They are now effecting new innovations in coal production.

Functionaries and working people in the coal industry sector should not lose their uplifted spirit in any way and should continue to thoroughly adhere to the principle of mining more coal of good quality and sending them first to thermal power plants.

Prompt transportation of the mined coal to thermal power plants is an important guarantee to increasing electric power production.

Functionaries in the railway transportation sector should properly organize and command transportation work; more vigorously display the 5.18 No-Accident, On-Time, Traction-Standard-Surpassing Movement that the party presented; and concentrate on transporting the mined coal to thermal power plants without delay. Thus, they should fully operate all generators.

Hastening completion of power plants by accelerating their construction is an important guarantee for further strengthening the country's energy base and for more smoothly meeting the increasing demand for electricity by the people's economy.

Building hydroelectric and thermal power plants to further strengthen the country's energy base is a huge work of remolding great Nature, which requires intense struggle.

It is impossible to successfully implement this huge construction work only with functionaries of electric power industry sector and combatants in charge of construction. All sectors and units of the people's economy should constantly be aware of the fact that the electric power industry is an important aspect of economic construction, in which we have to concentrate our efforts, and should send plant facilities and various materials to construction sites of power plants first.

In particular, functionaries and working people in the metal industry, machine industry, and building material

industry sectors should responsibly produce and supply basic means of electric power production such as generating facilities, steel products, cement for building dams, and various other facilities and materials.

Efficient use of generated electricity is an important way of smoothly meeting the people's economy's increasing demand for electricity.

The electric power industry sector should avoid midway loss of electricity by more thoroughly managing electric power lines and by repairing electric power facilities in a timely manner.

By vigorously displaying the movement for technological innovation, all sectors and units of the people's economy should change processing lines that require much electricity into ones that require little or no electricity. By doing so, they should markedly reduce the average electricity consumption rate per product.

They should all rise as one and vigorously struggle to maximize electric power production and efficiently use it. Also, they are urged to protect and defend to the end our country's socialist system, which is the most superior in the world, by creating a new history of great revolutionary upsurge in this significant year of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

U.S. Policy Paper Manifests 'Aggressive Ambition'

SK0102062393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1148 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Yun Pyong-son's commentary: "Invariable Aggressive Ambition"]

[Text] According to a report, a policy-making group in the United States has recently prepared a new report entitled "The United States' Role, Interests, and Policy in Asia."

In the report, this working-level group, which consisted of former and present U.S. Administration officials who claim to be experts in Asian affairs, noted that the United States' influence in Asia has been reduced, that there is a no more vital area in the world for U.S. interests than the Asia-Pacific region, and so forth. The group then urged the U.S. President to make his administration direct greater attention to Asia.

The group also pointed out that it is important for the United States to maintain its troops deployed in advanced areas in Asia and [word indistinct]. This is part of efforts to establish the so-called new global order which the United States is persistently pursuing. This fully exposes the United States' intent to strengthen aggression and domination by seizing Asia.

As is known to all, it is a unanimous desire of the people to build an independent, peaceful world free from domination, subordination, aggression, and war on the earth.

However, prompted by the end of the cold war and the collapse of the balance of power, the United States is attempting to maintain remnants of the cold war while adhering to a new policy of strength and trying to dominate all countries based on this policy. This is the very global order which the United States is pursuing.

The report entitled "The United States' Role, Interests, and Policy in Asia" reveals such vicious intentions by the United States to strengthen domination and aggression by seizing Asia based on the new global order. This report is a malicious challenge to the cause of people in Asia for peace and independence.

Moreover, the report stressed that it is important for the United States to maintain U.S. troops deployed in Asia, including South Korea, by regarding the Korean peninsula as a potential hot war area. This is intolerable.

The Korean peninsula became a site where a hot war can break out because of the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and maneuvers of aggression. If the U.S. imperialists had not occupied South Korea by means of force, our nation would not have been divided. If the U.S. imperialists withdrew from South Korea without waging maneuvers of war and aggression, the danger of war on the Korean peninsula would not have been created from the beginning.

This illustrates that the ringleader who made the Korean peninsula a site of hot war is the United States and that the United States should stop maneuvers of aggression and war in South Korea and should withdraw, taking along all aggressive forces including nuclear weapons, so that the danger of such a (?hot) war will be eliminated.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists are not going to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea, but are going to turn the Korean peninsula into a source of new thermonuclear war. They are going to stage the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which was suspended last year, this year at any cost.

By doing so, the scoundrels are going to invade all of Korea and Asia with South Korea, in which enormous nuclear weapons are deployed and which has already been seized as a military bridgehead to the continent, as a stepping-stone. Thus, they are going to realize the conquest of the world.

Proceeding from such aggressive ambitions, the U.S. imperialists regard the Korean peninsula as a site of hot war and are going to continually maintain U.S. forces in Asia.

All facts clearly illustrate that although the time has changed, there is no change whatsoever in the U.S. imperialists' policy toward Korea and Asia. However, such aggressive maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists go against the trend of the time and work as challenge to world people's cause of independence. Their maneuvers cannot avoid bankruptcy.

If the United States is truly interested in peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in Asia, it should discard such war maneuvers as the Team Spirit joint military exercise in Asian region and in particular, on the Korean peninsula where the danger of war is greatest in this region. The United States should immediately withdraw, taking along all war equipment including nuclear weapons.

KCNA Denounces South Imprisonment of Chondaehyop Chairman

SK2901103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities Wednesday demanded 10 years' imprisonment for student Tae Chae-chun, chairman of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), who had conducted righteous activities for independence, democracy and reunification, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The fascist clique inflicted a heavy penalty upon him by invoking the notorious "National Security Law", charging that it is an "act of benefiting the enemy" that after his election as chairman of Chondaehyop he hoisted flags of the DPRK at rallies and exchanged letters with students in the northern half of Korea.

This fascist outrage of the South Korean authorities is an open challenge to public opinion at home and abroad and broad segments of people who are demanding the abolition of the "National Security Law" and an anti-national criminal act quite contrary to the spirit of the North-South agreement.

SKNDF Rejects Team Spirit Resumption

SK2901052993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) in a statement issued Wednesday denounced the announcement of the resumption of the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean military fascist group as an unpardonable criminal act to light the train of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula at any cost, Radio Voice of National Salvation reported from Seoul.

The announcement of the resumption of the "Team Spirit" cannot be justified under any pretext, the statement said, and continued:

As for the "suspicion of nuclear development" by the North which the United States and the South Korean military fascist group raised in a far-fetched manner announcing the resumption of the "Team Spirit," it was totally denied when the North itself declared time and again that it had neither intention nor capacity to make

nuclear arms. Moreover, the peaceful nature and innocence of the North's nuclear policy has been proved clearly through several rounds of fair nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, that leaves no room for doubt.

Nevertheless, they are going to resume the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres which had been suspended before the North underwent a nuclear inspection, under the pretext of "suspicion of nuclear development" at a time when nuclear inspection is under way smoothly. This is a brigandish act reminding us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

In resuming the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres the United States seeks to put the brakes on the implementation of the North-South agreement, bring the North-South relations back to the original state of confrontation and thus justify the permanent presence of its forces in South Korea on the plea of "protecting" South Korea from the fictitious "threat from the North" and, furthermore, realise its wild ambition for the annexation of the North by provoking a war on the Korean peninsula any moment.

All the patriotic and democratic pro-reunification forces should wage a courageous anti-American national salvation struggle under the banner of independence and, for the present, launch into a vigorous all-people mass movement against the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises involving 120,000 troops.

The United States must no longer go against the trend of the times but immediately and completely pull out of South Korea its troops and nuclear weapons which have no ground to stay in this land and withdraw its hands of colonial domination.

The South Korean military fascist group must desist from their reckless war gambles threatening the fellow countrymen in league with foreign forces.

The projected nuclear war exercises must be cancelled immediately.

Anju Coal Mining Complex Production Successful

*SK2901115493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038
GMT 29 Jan 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—The miners of the Anju district coal mining complex have registered big success in coal production in the new year.

They have increased the daily amount of capital tunnelling 20 percent and coal production 30 percent above the daily average last year.

The miners of the Sinni and Yongnim coal mines have raised the output per miner 20 percent through the active introduction of new cutting methods.

The complex is a major coal producer of Korea, which holds a large share in the nation's coal output.

There were only a few small pits in the Anju area before the liberation of the country.

Dozens of coal mines and allied enterprises now belong to the complex which has a rich and promising coal field.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has wisely guided the work of developing the large-scale coal field in this area.

He gave on-the-spot guidance to this area several times, took measures to introduce large and modern mining equipment and mechanize the coal mining in a comprehensive way and, to this end, attached primary importance to the supply of up-to-date mining equipment.

He did his utmost to provide the miners with a more affluent life.

When he visited this area in October 1977, he took care that a good town of miners was built there on the best flat designs of the capital city and even formed a powerful group of constructors.

As a result, houses for thousands of families were built in this area in a few years.

The town has a sanatorium, a hospital, a study-while-working network including the college of coal mining and the high school of coal mining, a duck plant, a chicken plant, a foodstuff factory and other supply bases for the coal miners.

Housing Construction Creates New Villages

*SK2901115093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025
GMT 29 Jan 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, January 29 (KCNA)—Houses for over 110,000 families were built last year in all parts of Korea, bringing into shape hundreds of new villages.

New tongs and neighbourhood units have appeared in Pyongyang, including Chungsong-tong Nos. 1, 2 and 3, Tongilgori-tong Nos. 1 and 2 and Kwanmun-tong Nos. 1 and 2 with nearly 300 blocks of grand and beautiful flats built in folding-screen style, tower style and bundle style in Tongil and Kwangbok Streets.

Saesallim-tong Nos. 2, 3 and 4 with 1,000 flats have made their appearance in Songyim, the city of iron.

Houses for hundreds of families were built each at coal mines in Anju and Suncheon areas and the Hwachon coal mine.

New villages suited to the topographical features and natural environment have been built on the banks of the Amnok and Tumen Rivers, in Nanam, Sonbong, Anbyon and other coastal areas and along the Pyongyang-Kaesong express highway and in the valley of Sobaek stream at the foot of Mt. Paektu. As a result, the socialist countryside has renewed its looks.

Youth Fostering Economic 'Upsurge'

SK2901045193 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415*
GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Pyongyang, January 28 (KCNA)—The young people of Korea are effecting a great productive upsurge in various fields of the national economy with the eighth congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea ahead.

Workers of the youth workshop of the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex are fulfilling their daily quota at over 105 percent these days by increasing the electric load of each generator by 2,000-3,000 kw over that at the end of last year.

The young workers of the Hungnam fertilizer complex are increasing ammonia production 20 percent over early December last year when it was an all-time high and producing much more chemical fertilizer than the plan.

Youth workteams at Chilli and Sokho coal mines of the Anju district coal mining complex have carried out their January plan fifteen days ahead of schedule through a dynamic drive for increased production.

Young builders who are undertaking the project for the electrification of Hyesan-Manpo railways (about 250 km) have already finished structural construction including shunting transformer substations in the whole section and are now pushing ahead with the project at the final stage.

Young people of the Tanchon youth electric locomotive corps, the Sinuiju youth passenger car and wagon service brigade, the Sariwon youth railway station and several other units under the Ministry of Railways are energetically waging the "drive for extra-haulage on schedule without accident to implement the decision of the 18th plenary meeting of the fifth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea" so as to satisfy the growing demand of the national economy for transport.

Young farmers are achieving a signal success in preparations for this year's farming—production and carriage of manure, land improvement and water-way projects.

Youth's achievements are also reported from construction sites of apartment houses for 30,000 families in the capital and dwelling houses in the countryside.

Over the past period the Korean youths have performed shining feats in all fields of the socialist economic construction to create more wealth of the country and the people in hearty response to the line and policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Haeju-Hasong railways and northern railways, the Songnam and Chonsong youth coal mines, the Kanggye youth power station, the Namhung youth chemical complex, the May Day stadium, Kwangbok and Tongil

streets in Pyongyang and other monumental edifices of the Workers' Party era are associated with the heroic feats of the young people.

Heavy Industry Domains Surpass January Targets

SK0102105993 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006*
GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—The Working People of Korea in different domains of the national economy topped their January targets in their drive to fulfil the tasks set forth by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

Significant results were reported from the coal, power and metal industries.

The Ministry of the Coal Industry went beyond the January quotas on all indices, fully meeting the needs for coal in different domains of the national economy. The Kuchang, Kangdong, Kaechon and Kangso district coal mining complexes and many other units fulfilled the monthly coal production commitments two or three days ahead of schedule.

Many units in the power industry including the Pujon, Wiwon, March 17, Changjingang, Hochongang and Tongchon power stations and the Pyongyang and east Pyongyang thermal power stations overfulfilled their monthly assignments. The Suphung power station topped the monthly target 29.1 percent on January 29.

The Ministry of the Metal Industry overfulfilled the January production assignment of rolled steel nine percent.

The Ministry of the Mining Industry, the Ministry of Natural Resources development, the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of the Building-materials Industry, the State Fisheries Commission and other units of the national economy are among those that overfulfilled the January assignments.

The State Fisheries Commission overfulfilled its January assignments of aquatic products 32 percent as of January 29.

The General Bureau of Shoe-making industry, the Korea silk company, the Pyongyang Municipal General Bureau of garments and many other units of the light industry overfulfilled the monthly quotas.

New Envoy to Syria Presents Credentials

SK0202104993 *Pyongyang Korean Central*
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Pak Ui-chun, our country's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Syria, presented his credentials to Hafiz al-Asad, Syrian president, on 28 January.

At a meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the leader

Comrade Kim Chong-il to President Hafiz al-Asad. Expressing deep gratitude for this, the president asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere.

New Envoy to Morocco Presents Credentials

SK0202103293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Jan 93

[Text] Kim Yong-sok, our country's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Morocco, presented his credentials to Hassan II, the Moroccan King, on 26 January.

At a meeting, the ambassador conveyed greetings of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to King Hassan II. Expressing deep gratitude to this, the king asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere.

KCNA Reviews 1 Feb NODONG SINMUN

SK0102054393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 1 Feb 93

[NODONG SINMUN review]

[Text] Pyongyang, February 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's immortal classical work "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" were disseminated and studied abroad.

Conveyed in the paper are voices of foreigners and South Korean people highly praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as an illustrious leader.

Functions were held in Burundi and Zimbabwe on the occasion of the birthday of Comrade Kim Chong-il, says the daily.

Figuring large in it is a signed article entitled "our society is one big family", which says the genuine human relations of "one for all and all for one" are coming into full bloom and the noble and beautiful communist traits of sharing bitters and sweets, helping and leading each other forward are being displayed fully in the society of Korea where the entire people have established close bonds of kinship under the guidance of the great leader and the illustrious leader.

Under the blockletter title "Warm Hearts of Our People Towards February Holiday" the paper carries articles and photographs showing the Korean people's revolutionary will to advance to the last towards the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of *chuche* under the guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Econews of the daily includes reports that January assignments have been successfully fulfilled at the Chollima Steel Complex, the Musan Mining Complex, the Anju District Coal Mining Complex, the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex and other units of the national economy.

The Korean ambassador to Morocco presented his credentials to the king of the country, says the paper.

It is reported in the paper that the joint measure committee of the murder case of Yun Kum-i proposed the formation of a permanent measure committee against crimes of the U.S. soldiers. Father Mun Kyu-hyon vowed to work hard for reunification and the secretary general of the tri-continental people's solidarity organization called upon the U.N. organizations to pay special attention to the long-term prisoners in South Korea.

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation the daily exposes that the South Korean authorities are going against the nation in league with outside forces.

According to the daily, political parties and organizations in Pakistan held a rally and published a joint statement in support of the Korean people's policy of national reunification, and the Madagascar AMP News Agency reported an article entitled "Establishment of Socialist System is the Starting Point of the Building of Communism."

Its international news includes reports that the Burundian president called for unity of the African nations and the Kenyan president denounced the West for its interference in the internal affairs of African countries.

It runs a commentary hitting out at the Japanese authorities' recent crafty attempts to obtain "international confidence."

An article of the paper gives an analysis of the recent situation of Somalia.

KCNA on 30 Jan Pyongyang Press

SK3001053493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0453 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 30 (KCNA)—Papers today report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with the heads of state and party leaders of different countries.

Papers inform the readers that the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent thanks to units and working people who had set examples in assisting the People's Army.

NODONG SINMUN carries a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to Boonchu Rojanastien, newly elected leader of the Palang Dharma (Moral Force) Party of Thailand.

The paper in its important article says that there is no border in science but the Korean intellectuals have the great socialist motherland of *chuche* and they are proud intellectuals who share destiny with socialism in the prospering motherland, holding the great leader in high esteem.

On the official announcement of the United States and the South Korean authorities that the "Team-Spirit 93" joint military exercises will be staged, papers run editorials urging vigilance against nuclear war scheme of the enemy and a statement of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks.

Econews of the press includes reports that January plans have been fulfilled in different fields of the national economy and the construction of 30,000 flats is progressing fast in Pyongyang.

Papers carry a memorandum of the DPRK Foreign Ministry exposing the truth behind the development of nuclear weapons by South Korea which is going on under the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" on the lapse of 35 years since the United States illegally introduced nuclear weapons into South Korea.

NODONG SINMUN in a commentary denounces the invariable nuclear attack scheme of the United States against the North of Korea.

The paper informs the readers that the U.S. imperialists conducted air reconnaissance and war exercises against the North.

Commentaries of the press denounce the murderous trial at which the South Korean authorities demanded a prison term of ten years for student Tae Chae-chun, chairman of the general student council of Seoul National University and chairman of the national council of student representatives. NODONG SINMUN carries words of foreign public figures praising achievements of the Korean youth movement.

The paper reports that the secretary general of the United Nations recommended the U.N. Security Council to take steps for the repatriation of Palestinians, the Malawi Government refuted distorted propaganda of the West, a meeting of the drafting committee of the basic law on Macao was held in China. Papers mark the first anniversaries of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Azerbaijan and Moldova.

NODONG SINMUN denounces Japan's scheme to become a military power and seek overseas aggression in its article headlined "ambition to be international military police".

South Korea

Seoul Protests U.S. Preliminary Anti-Dumping Charges

SK0302075393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—Seoul protested against Washington's preliminary anti-dumping charges on steel products at a trade meeting here Wednesday, questioning the U.S. procedure in deciding dumping margins, Foreign Ministry officials said. Seoul received discouraging predictions on settling yet another anti-dumping charge on semiconductors, with the U.S. side saying the case was most likely to go all the way to final anti-dumping charges, the officials said.

The protest message was delivered to the U.S. side during the Trade Action Group (TAG) meeting, which was led by Richard Morford, minister-counselor at the American Embassy, and Hong Chong-pyo, director-general of the ministry's International Trade Bureau. TAG meets seven to eight times a year to monitor smaller issues not covered in separate bilateral talks.

Morford took issue with Korea's customs, standardization and food inspection procedures, asking for their simplification, the officials explained after the meeting. He also asked for "visible" results from a crackdown on intellectual property right violations, reminding Korea of the coming decision on whether Seoul will be designated a priority foreign country (PFC) in this area early next year, they said.

Seoul complained about the anti-dumping margins for Korean steel products, saying they were set as if steel were a freely traded product when it was actually under export quotas from the Voluntary Restraint Agreement (VRA) based on the Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA). It went against the current movement to revive MSA, which expired last year, to regulate world steel trade, they said. Washington handed preliminary punitive tariffs of between 4.72 percent and 30 percent on Korea for dumping Jan. 27.

U.S. officials gave a negative forecast of settling the semiconductor anti-dumping case before the final decision, explaining that such a settlement was unlikely unless micron technology, the company that brought the charges, decided to dismiss the case on its own.

The U.S. side denied local reports that President Bill Clinton is on a trade offensive, claiming his administration had neither the staff nor the time to set down definitive policies, the Korean officials said.

The TAG meeting did produce two agreements, under which Seoul will import U.S. blood products as soon as the Red Cross societies officially sign the contract.

Seoul had opposed such imports, demanded by the United States for the past two years, due to fears of

blood-transmitted diseases and lobbying by local competitors. Seoul also reaffirmed a government decision last month allowing Cargil, a U.S. food company, to set up and operate a factory in South Korea.

Steelmakers 'Dread the Worst'

SK0302034793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0149 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The U.S. Commerce Department is stepping on the toes of foreign steel exporters by requesting needless materials for its anti-dumping investigations, industry sources alleged Wednesday.

Angry at Washington's bullying attitude, European steelmakers and Sumitomo Metal Industries of Japan have decided to ignore its demand for materials, they said.

The Commerce Department slapped temporary punitive tariffs on steel from 19 countries, including seven members of the European Community, Japan, and South Korea, after a preliminary ruling on Jan. 27 that their products were being sold at unfairly low prices.

Sumitomo, one of Japan's five major steelmakers, was enraged when the Commerce Department demanded costs data irrelevant to the anti-dumping investigation, they said. Washington had initially requested materials on export prices and local sales prices.

Sumitomo recently decided to stop playing Washington's game and refuse to provide the materials, the sources said.

The host country is supposed to limit its material requests to export and local sales prices when imports are sold higher than the cost price back at home, but Washington is demanding needless materials on costs. The Korean steelmakers accused of dumping and the government have agreed to go along for the moment, the sources said.

When Britain and Spain refused to meet with a demand for materials, the U.S. Government hit them with dumping charges as high as 109 percent based on BIA (best information available) materials filed by the U.S. complainant.

Some of the exporters rejecting Washington's requests are hinting they will give up trading with the United States because they can't expect a fair investigation, the sources said.

The U.S. Government required information on costs Dec. 31 last year from Korean companies, six months after demanding materials on export and home sales prices in a dumping suit on Korean cold- and hot-rolled and galvanized sheet, carbon plate in June.

Korean steelmakers dread the worst because Washington insists the information be on computer disks instead of

paper, the most popular means of business records in Korea. The final dumping determination on Korea is scheduled for June 2.

Core of ROK-EC Trade Friction

SK0302025893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0041 GMT 3 Feb 93

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Brussels, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—Trade volumes and issues fluctuate, but one thing between South Korea and the European Community that remains constant is the Gordian knot of dumping. A look at the numbers shows Seoul's concern more than justified.

Korea's share of the EC market was 1.6 percent as of the end of last year, but since 1986 it has been hit with 21 dumping charges and investigations. This is about the same number as China (20) and Japan (21), but China has about 3 percent of the market and Japan a massive 10 percent.

Last year alone, the EC opened dumping investigations of Korean electronic scales in February and floppy disks in September, and decided final anti-dumping charges on car radios and initial anti-dumping charges on D-RAM semiconductors. The latest strike came in late November, when the EC announced it will launch dumping investigations of 16-inch and bigger color television sets. This will make it six Korean items under dumping probes.

The television attack will seriously hurt because manufacturers concentrated on 16-inch sets after smaller televisions were hit with anti-dumping charges in April 1990 and expanded production lines throughout Europe.

Korea already pays anti-dumping fees on nine products ranging from non-refillable pocket cigarette lighters and video cassettes to polyester yarn and oxalic acid. It agreed on price undertaking for four more products and quotas on fabric, shoes and canned mushrooms.

Seoul-side officials say the EC is abusing anti-dumping measures to protect its own market, and they back up their charges with trade figures.

Korea's car radio exports to the EC decreased a whopping 70.4 percent last year compared to a year before, color television sets plunged 59 percent and electronics fell 37 percent. The officials say these poor performances are much responsible for the trade figures plummeting to a 470 million-U.S.-dollar deficit in 1992 from a 2.09 billion-dollar surplus in 1988.

Some Seoul businessmen claim the EC's anti-dumping measures are biased and are used politically, and they point to the imbalance between Korea's market share in the community and the number of dumping investigations.

"I seriously wonder if the EC would resort so often to dumping probes if Korea were a politically stronger country," a Korean business official muses.

"There are a certain number of Korean firms which pursue aggressive pricing policy in order to get into the market. If that is the case, then the normal consequence is that the industry of the importing countries looks into dumping charges," says Hans-Friedrich Beseler, director in charge of anti-dumping affairs at the EC Commission.

"I would like to be very clear. Anti-dumping is a legitimate response to an illegitimate practice," says Jose Ramon Borrell, division chief on China and other Far Eastern countries.

Korean businesses complain of a "log rolling effect," where EC members cover each other even if not all of them have an interest in a particular case.

It may be a very small number of companies from just one country that files dumping charges, and all other EC members go along to open dumping investigations even if their industries are not injured.

"Only in very exceptional cases," Beseler responds to charges of log rolling. It would be possible if one or two companies made up more than 50 percent of an industry, he explains.

Non-injured countries would not simply go along, because they would have their own export interests in the country being investigated, he says.

Borrell's response was, "If the industry comes to us with evidence of dumping, we have no alternative but to launch an investigation." This points to the level where problems and solutions really lie.

"It's the manufacturers who bring up the dumping charges. We can solve a host of problems before they start by maintaining good relations with them, which we utterly lack. It's actually not something that should be dealt with by the EC Commission," Nam Ki-ho, manager of the Brussels branch of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA), explains.

The problem also lies in overheated competition among exporters to the EC, who use their local contacts to instigate dumping charges against competitors, according to Nam.

"There is always the Court of Justice," Borrell says. So far, Goldstar is the only Korean company that has appealed to the EC court, where it appealed compact disk player dumping charges back in November 1991. The appeal was dismissed.

"The South Korean Government should pay more attention, too," points out Pak In-ku, commercial attache at the South Korean Mission to the EC. Some countries,

like Japan, send government officials to dumping hearings, and it is a very effective means of keeping the EC on its toes, but the Seoul government lacks such planning, he says.

Mobile Telephone Project Seen Threatening Trade Ties

SK0202032093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
2 Feb 93 p 9

[Text] The second mobile telephone project that the Sunkyoung business group was forced to relinquish because of charges of favoritism due to the owner's ties with President No Tae-u last year could emerge as another major source of trade friction between Korea and the United States.

According to industry sources yesterday, the mobile phone project will be dealt with in the Korea-U.S. telecommunications talks to be held in Washington Feb. 4-5.

The American delegation to the talks will likely urge the Korean government to let the Sunkyoung-led consortium, Taehan Telecom Ltd., undertake the lucrative business as announced last August, the sources said. This will mark the first time that the U.S. will take issue with the mobile phone project in formal trade talks.

Last August, Taehan Telecom was awarded a contract for the second mobile phone network but gave it up after a storm of criticism from the general public over the alleged nepotism. Sunkyoung Group chairman Choe Chong-hyon is related to President No Tae-u by marriage of their children.

GTE Corp. of the United States, a member of Taehan Telecom, was displeased with Sunkyoung's foresaking the project and sent a message protesting the return of the contract to the U.S. trade representative office, Sunkyoung officials said.

GTE Corp. is allegedly hoping that the Korean Government will award the contract to Taehan Telecom, which was selected after legal and appropriate screening, while resisting the Korean Government's attempt to designate new ventures.

Industry analysts expressed concerns that the inclusion of the mobile phone issue in the telecommunications talks will strain trade links between Seoul and Washington, which are turning sour since President Clinton took office.

Korean-U.S. trade ties have of late been aggravated as the new U.S. administration has been applying stronger trade pressure. Last week, the U.S. Commerce Department slapped anticumping duties of up to 30 percent on some steel products imported from Korea.

Analysts said GTE Corp. appeared to have asked the U.S. authorities to discuss the mobile phone issue in the

telecommunications talks in its ultimate bid to file a lawsuit seeking compensation.

GTE Corp. is dissatisfied with the latest reports that the new Korean Administration, to be inaugurated on Feb. 25, is seeking to adopt new methods in the selection of the winner of the valuable contract.

It is reported that the Kim Yong-sam administration may select plural winners or chose the winner through lotteries or public auction.

In the meantime, Britain's Vodafone Ltd., which took part in Taehan Telecom with a 5-percent stake, is also allegedly moving to get the contract restored by appointing lawyers, industry observers said.

Visa Rejections Seen as Sign of Stable U.S. Policy

SK0202031793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0235 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Washington, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration has sent a clear and unequivocal signal to North Korea that Pyongyang cannot hope to improve its relations with the United States unless it accepts simultaneous inspections of nuclear facilities with South Korea.

The U.S. government has denied visas to six North Korean parliamentarians who said they wanted to take part in a U.S. Congressional prayer breakfast on Feb. 3-4.

Informed sources said Monday that the United States took the action against the visit by members of the Supreme People's Assembly also to press its demand that Pyongyang cooperate with inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The U.S. State Department declined to make any comment as to why it had turned down the North Korean visa applications.

North Korea had apparently misunderstood the true character of the breakfast prayer meeting and tried to send a high-powered delegation led by Kim yong-sun, director of the International Department of the Workers' (Communist) Party Central Committee, the sources said.

The U.S. Congress had sent invitations to parliamentarians in some 120 countries, including North Korea and Cuba, with which the United States has no diplomatic relations since the prayer meeting is of a religious and not a political character.

The Clinton administration had decided to bar the entry of the North Korean delegation because it was obvious North Korea wanted to use the occasion for political purposes, said the sources.

"If the U.S. Government accepted the North Korean delegation to visit the United States at the time when North Korea was not showing active cooperation on the

nuclear issue, it could be misinterpreted by Pyongyang as a new position of the Clinton administration," one of the sources said.

From South Korea, Reps. Pak Chu-chon and Pak Se-chik are scheduled to attend the meeting.

One State Department official said the United States continued to stress the need for "effective and credible" inspection of nuclear facilities, despite changes in government.

"There would be no change in U.S.-North Korean relations unless North Korea resolves the nuclear question," the official said.

Authorities: U.S. Wheat 'Not Fit for Human Consumption'

SK0302114793 Seoul YONHAP in English 1102 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—A large amount of wheat imported from the United States were recently declared "not fit for human consumption" after they were found to carry an extremely high content of a toxic chemical substance. An official at the Health and Social Affairs said Wednesday the 10,906 tons of American wheat that reached the Pusan harbor on Jan. 11 were allowed to be taken into the country only for use other than human consumption.

He said an examination by quarantine authorities showed that the wheat contain carbendazim, a chemical substance known to cause cancer, in an amount 132 times as much as the tolerable level.

The American wheat were introduced by Shinhan Flour Mills Co. and three other mills at 1,680,000 dollars. Last June, 2,201 tons of Australian wheat were found to carry thiopante-methyl 16 times as much as the permissible level.

The official said that carbendazim detected in the American wheat is a transformed substance of farm chemical thiopante-methyl or benomyl formed after they were used.

"When we calculate the detected carbendazim in the equivalent of thiopante-methyl, it amounts to no fewer than 6.617ppm of thiopante-methyl, 132 times as much as the tolerable level of 0.05ppm," he said. He said both thiopante-methyl and benomyl themselves are less toxic post-harvest farm chemicals designed to keep wheat from being decayed during shipment.

"But, carbendazim formed from their use is believed to cause cancer and various human diseases such as expectoration, pharyngitis and kidney trouble," the official said.

KMPA Says PRC Fishing Vessels Cause Delays at Incheon

SK0202090193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0801 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Chinese fishing vessels carrying cars to China are causing delays and safety problems in the port of Incheon and the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) is racking brains to stop the practices, KMPA sources said Tuesday. In January, 12 fishing boats of 100 tons to 200 tons put in at Incheon and each loaded eight Korean cars to take to the mainland. They accounted for 22.2 percent of the 54 Chinese ships docking at Korean ports last month. Because fishing boats take up the same space as a freighter, they are worsening Incheon's congestion, the sources said. They must be stopped for safety reasons, as the boats were not built to carry cars, they added.

Korea bans fishing boats from carrying any cargo other than equipment for fishing, but China lacks a similar law. Korea's law has not been applied, however.

The Incheon office of KMPA had suggested the issue be solved by the Beijing and Seoul governments, but KMPA headquarters decided the problem had better remain local, the sources said.

It was possible to control Chinese fishing boats with international laws pertaining to safety of vessels or prevention of maritime pollution, they said. Fearing, however, that enforcing the law on Chinese fishing boats might cause diplomatic discomfort between Seoul and Beijing, Incheon port was not sure how to handle the problem, they said.

A growing number of Chinese ships are entering Korea since the two countries normalized diplomatic relations Aug. 24 last year.

German Chancellor Kohl To Visit in March

SK2901062293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0537 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will visit South Korea for summit talks March 1-3, the Foreign Ministry announced Friday. Kohl and President Kim Yong-sam will "exchange views on the regional and global situation, ways of promoting the friendly and cooperative relations and matters of mutual interest between the two countries," the ministry announcement said.

The German Chancellor was to visit Seoul last October, but had to delay his trip due to an emergency EC summit. He will go to India, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan as well on his Asian tour. Germany is competing for the multibillion-U.S.-dollar Seoul-Pusan high-speed train project against France and Japan.

Government Plans To Pay Reparations to 'Comfort Women'

SK0102130493 Seoul YONHAP in English 1102 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The government plans to pay reparation to the Korean women mobilized by Japan during World War II for sex service to its frontline soldiers, beginning this year separate from possible compensation by Japan.

An official at the Foreign Ministry said Monday the planned reparation will be in the form of livelihood subsidies and payment will possibly begin in the first half of this year.

"Most surviving people of these women commonly known as 'comfort women' are extremely in difficult conditions both mentally and financially, necessitating government-level support for their lives," the official said. He said such government reparation would have the effect of helping prompt the Japanese government to move faster over the "comfort women" issue.

Financial subsidies will be paid out of the government's reserve fund, but details will be decided through discussion among relevant government offices upon the inauguration of the new government, the official added.

Government To Focus on Policy Toward North Korea

SK0302060993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0536 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The government will focus in the next few months on getting the joint committees to put the inter-Korean basic agreement into practice back on track and maintaining the inter-Korean high-level talks as a channel of dialogue, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

South Korea expected normalization of inter-Korean dialogue after the Seoul-Washington "Team Spirit" joint military exercise finished in March, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Choe Yong-chol, who is also unification minister, held a meeting to discuss unification issues on Wednesday with 17 ministers. In the meeting, the spokesman said, they fixed government policy toward North Korea. All inter-Korean contacts have stalled. It was decided to work out a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue as early as possible, put first priority on tackling the separated family problem by resuming the Red Cross talks, get ready for espionage activities by the North and pursue negotiations based on national agreement.

They agreed to push pilot economic cooperation projects, the expansion of direct commodity deals, and cultural, sports and tourism exchanges with North Korea to expedite private-level exchanges under the agreements between both authorities. It was decided that North

Korea would strengthen control over daily lives of its people, ban infiltration of foreign currents and seek limited economic opening more actively to overcome its economic slump.

Pyongyang was also likely to be eager to pursue official contacts and personnel exchanges with the United States, the meeting decided. The North would try to conclude its diplomatic normalization talks with Japan, and step up its efforts to get economic cooperation even before a diplomatic tie-up, it was agreed.

While putting emphasis on inter-Korean economic cooperation, the spokesman said, North Korea was expected to continue its hackneyed unified front tactics to communize South Korea by trying to hold a pan-national rally with dissidents in the South.

New Foreign Ministry Appointments Announced

SK0302041993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0318 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—Chong Tae-ik, director-general of the American Affairs Bureau, was appointed consul-general to Cairo Wednesday in a Foreign Ministry reshuffle. Chang Chae-yong, presidential secretary for protocol, will replace Chong.

Yi Chong-ha, presidential press secretary, was named new consul-general to San Francisco to replace Pak Chun-pom who goes to Hamburg, also as consul-general.

Chong, 49, a native of Chinchon Northern Chungchong Province, graduated from Seoul National University School of Law. He entered the Foreign Ministry in 1970 and served at missions in Japan, Liberia and Washington D.C. He was with the presidential Secretariat on foreign and national security affairs from April 1990 to February 1992 when he took post as director-general. Seoul and Cairo are yet to establish ambassadorial-level relations.

Yi, 52 and non-career, is a Seoul National University graduate with a major in international relations. A native of Seoul, Yi has a Ph.d. in political science from Catholic University in the United States. Yi, a native of Seoul, started out at the Information Ministry and was assistant professor at the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and national security and senior research fellow at the Sejong Institute before he joined the presidential press Secretariat in 1990.

Pak, 47, is also a non-career diplomat who graduated from the Korea Military Academy in 1958. Also from Seoul, he was defense attache to Santiago before he joined the Foreign Ministry and served in Colombia and Mexico. He was ambassador to El Salvador from 1988 to 1990 and went directly to San Francisco as consul-general.

DLP Team Seeks Clinton-Kim Meeting by June

SK0202081893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0644 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and President-elect Kim Yong-sam's transition team will both recommend to Kim that he seek summit meetings with the United States and Japan by June, a party insider said Tuesday.

An early meeting between Kim and U.S. President Bill Clinton was desirable to help solve pending issues, including pressures for liberalization of the Korean rice market, and the preliminary U.S. countervailing duties on Korean steel products, he said.

The DLP and the team will ask Kim to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also to settle thorny issues such as Korean women forced to be sex slaves by the Japanese army during World War II.

"Opinions that Kim should visit the United States and Japan and have summit talks in June are running high in the party," the source, who refused to be identified, said. "Some people say that it would be much better for Kim to meet with President Clinton in Seoul sometime around July, when the U.S. President will be in Tokyo for a summit of the seven major advanced countries," he said.

"If President Clinton can't come to Seoul due to internal matters, then Kim could visit Washington before the Tokyo summit," he said.

An aide to Kim said that the next president could hold talks with Miyazawa in Seoul in March or April and with Clinton in Washington around June.

Korean diplomats in Washington and Tokyo will first contact U.S. and Japanese officials and decide afterwards, the aide added.

Prosecution To Intensify Copyright Piracy Investigation

SK0302033593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The prosecution will soon double the number of investigators assigned to copyright piracy and launch a crackdown to ease trade friction with the United States, Prosecutor-General Kim Tu-hui said Wednesday.

The target will be mass copying of books, records and videotapes, and criminal charges will be filed against street vendors dealing in black market goods and individuals who copy computer software. Kim said in a meeting of senior prosecutors. Korean exports to the United States are feared to suffer because of piracy of intellectual property rights, he said.

The staff of the joint investigation teams at 12 district prosecutions would be doubled to over 500. The prosecution will also target fake brand watches and sports wear, illegal copies of records, videotapes and software, and the translation and publication of foreign books without permission. The prosecution will seek the heaviest penalties and charges called for by the law.

Last month, the prosecution caught 238 violators of intellectual property rights and arrested 28 of them. From 1988 to 1992, 25,245 were booked and 883 of them were put under arrest.

Hyundai Recovers From December 'Sluggish Sales'

SK0202082093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0743 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Hyundai Motor Co. sold 73,647 cars in January, recovering from sluggish sales in the previous month caused by the mobilization of Hyundai salesmen in the presidential campaign of its group founder, Chong Chu-yong. It sold 48,287 in Korea and 25,360 abroad.

The total compares with 50,428 in January 1989, 40,488 in 1990, 51,790 in 1991, and 14,318 in 1992. In January 1992, Hyundai's turnover was exceptionally low as its assembly plants were troubled by a serious labor dispute. Kia Motors Corp. sold 32,489 cars in January, down 6.1 percent from a year earlier, with 23,467 at home, off by 9,000. Daewoo Motor Co. sold 22,875, up 400 cars, 18,138 at home, down 4,000.

In December, Hyundai accounted for 38.6 percent of all car sales in Korea, Kia (including Asia Motors Co.) 42.9 percent and Daewoo (including Daewoo Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery Ltd.) 17.3 percent. In January, Hyundai had 54 percent, Kia 25.9 percent and Daewoo 19.2 percent.

Korea's seven automakers sold 135,586 vehicles in January, up 76.6 percent from a year earlier.

Foreign Stock Purchases Show 'Modest Rebound'

SK0202101693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0818 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (YONHAP)—Foreigners spent 440.4 billion won (554 million U.S. dollars) to buy 25.83 million shares on the Korea Stock Exchange in January, representing a modest rebound from 397.6 billion won in December.

The amount, a gain of 39.4 percent from the same month a year earlier, accounted for 3 percent of total turnover (14,675.3 billion won) in January, according to figures compiled by the securities supervisory board.

Foreign buying slid to 100 billion won in February last year and stayed there until rising to 356.6 billion won in October, 514.1 billion won in November and 394.6

billion won in December. Share prices averaged 17,050 won for foreign purchases, compared with a market average of 15,409 won.

Selling stopped at 206.6 billion won, resulting in a net purchase of 233.8 billion last month. Aggregate buying and selling since the market opened in January last year is 2,826.1 billion won (155.4 million shares) and 1,084 billion won (65.39 million shares), respectively, as of the end of January. Market capitalization reached 84 trillion won last month.

Defense Agency Develops 'Ultramodern Wireless Radio'

SK2901080493 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 27 Jan 93 p 21

[Text] The Agency for Defense Development (ADD) and a domestic defense industry firm succeeded in developing the "next-generation FM wireless radio" with counter-electronic warfare capability (ECCM) [acronym as published in English] for the fourth time in the world, thus giving a green light not only for upgrading defense industry technology but also for advancing toward international defense industry markets.

According to ADD on 27 January, this ultramodern wireless radio has predominant capability to cope with radio wave disturbance which gives a fatal blow to military operations. This radio also has self-inspection functions to check defects and remote control capability.

In addition, this radio was designed to fit Koreans' physical constitution. Thus, it is the smallest and lightest radio among all similar kinds of radios in the world, and its hand-carrying is easy and its complex manipulation methods were considerably simplified.

The ADD began development of the next-generation wireless radio with ECCM functions in 1985 in a bid to cope with electronic warfare (ECM) [acronym as published in English] which may be waged by North Korea.

Despite negative allegations that domestic development of this radio is impossible with limited funds, the development team succeeded in developing it nearly at the same time with advanced foreign countries through independent, unique research at home.

Not only our own military but also a number of world countries including the United States are planning to gradually replace the existing radios, which are used as a major field command communication means, with the new type. Therefore, its market prospects are very bright.

Relevant military officials assessed that the development of this next-generation FM wireless radio not only will contribute to exporting military equipment overseas and to promoting electronic warfare capability, which decides success or failure in modern warfare, but also will play an important role in building self-defense capabilities.

New Army Manuals To Portray DPRK 'Partner'

*SK3001055793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0539 GMT
30 Jan 93*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry will prepare new education manuals for the South Korean Army by November that reduce the emphasis on anti-communism, an official in the ministry's office of troop education and information said Saturday.

The new manuals will cover national history, liberal democracy, unification security and ethics in addition to anti-communism, it was decided at a meeting Friday of advisers on troops education, manual writers and working-level officials, he said. It was agreed to give a new view of national security and a plural view of international relations rather than describing only inter-Korean confrontation.

"The new manuals will describe North Korea as a partner with which the South can realize unification," he said. The manuals should be ready by the end of November for use from January 1994.

Direct Air Service to SRV Possible in April

*SK2901063293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0613 GMT
29 Jan 93*

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Direct air services between South Korea and Vietnam may begin as early as April under an aviation pact that allows several planes from each side to serve on the route, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Korean jetliners will fly to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City while Vietnamese planes service Seoul and Pusan three times a week.

The agreement was initialed during the aviation talks that started in Hanoi Wednesday between Hong Chong-pyo, director-general of Korea's international trade bureau, and Vu Quy Dinh, deputy director-general of Vietnam's Civil Aviation Administration, the officials said.

The Korea-Vietnam route was severed when they cut diplomatic relations in 1975 because of Vietnam's communization. They restored ties on Dec. 22 last year.

Taiwanese Community Leaders Lower Flags

*SK0102094793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0919 GMT 1
Feb 93*

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—Taiwanese community leaders bowed to diplomatic pressure and agreed Monday to lower two of their national flags "for now" from Wednesday but asked for Seoul's understanding in keeping the flag hoisted in front of their elementary school. Liu Guoxing, a community leader, and other representatives called on Kim Sok-u, director-general of Asian affairs bureau at the Foreign Ministry, to notify that the flags in two of their buildings will come down from around Wednesday.

Taiwanese flags, all three of them hoisted virtually next door to the Mainland Chinese Embassy, were eyesores to Chinese diplomats who will move into the embassy building, formally occupied by Taiwan before the diplomatic severance, on Feb. 5. Seoul and Taipei cut off relations when South Korea recognized Beijing's "one China policy" as it established ties with China last Aug. 24. South Korea's domestic laws prohibit hoisting flags of countries with which it has no official relations, but Taiwanese community leaders had been refusing to bring them down.

The Seoul government delivered two strong-toned messages to Taipei this year, pressing it to bring the flags down before Feb. 5. But Liu and other representatives asked for Seoul's understanding in keeping the flag up in front of their elementary school, ministry officials said.

"The problem is politically volatile, and we asked the Taiwan leaders to convince the parents that the flag in front of the school would have to come down as well," Kim said after the meeting. The Taiwanese community leaders said they will lower the flags "for now", meaning until Seoul and Taipei start negotiating adjustment of their relations and reach a solution, according to informed sources at the Foreign Ministry. The negotiations are to start after the expected government reshuffle in Taiwan, the sources said. Results of Monday's meeting was briefed to Chinese ambassador by phone, they said.

Burma

SLORC Chairman Meets PRC Foreign Minister

*BK0202130093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1200 GMT 2 Feb 93*

[From the "News in Brief" program]

[Text] Mr. Qian Qichen, member of the State Council and foreign minister of the People's Republic of China, and delegation paid a courtesy call on General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and prime minister, at 0930 today.

Chief Justice Meets National Convention Panel

*BK0202144993 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 2 Feb 93*

[Text] U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC], held a meeting with the panel of chairmen of National Convention delegates at the central meeting hall in the President's house compound on Ahlone Road, in Yangon [Rangoon] at 0900 today.

Present at the meeting were Attorney General U Tha Tun, vice chairman of the NCCWC, and members; members of the panel of chairmen from the eight National Convention delegate groups; and members of the panel of chairmen assigned by the NCCWC.

At the meeting, U Aung Toe, chairman of the NCCWC and chief justice, delivered a welcoming address. Meanwhile, U Aye Maung, secretary of the meeting and secretary of the NCCWC, introduced the members of the panel of chairmen to members of the NCCWC and vice versa. The NCCWC chairman next explained matters related to the national convention group discussions and the combined meeting of national convention delegates. The meeting came to a close after the NCCWC chairman and secretary answered queries raised by the members of the panel of chairmen.

After the meeting, Major General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; Maj. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, vice chairmen; Brig. Gen. Aung Thein, secretary; and NCCC members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the NCCWC; U Tha Tun, vice chairman of the NCCWC, and NCCWC members; and the members of the panel of chairmen took group photographs.

It has been learned that Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, chairman of the NCCC, cordially greeted the members of the panel of chairmen.

Delegates Hold Panel Discussions

*BK0302025593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 2 Feb 93*

[Text] Panel discussions were held at 1300 today by eight groups of delegates to the National Convention in their respective meeting halls at the Kyaikkasan Grounds, Yangon [Rangoon].

Today's panel discussions by the delegates discussed chapter headings which should be included in the chapters of the state constitution.

The panel discussion of delegates from the political parties was held at 1300 today in Meeting Room No. 5. It was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Tun Yin Law, from the National Unity Party with U Zeya acting as secretary of the meeting.

At the meeting, chapter headings which should be included in the constitution were discussed by the following delegates from political parties: U Aung Shwe, National League for Democracy; U Sai Aik Thaung, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy; U Tun Yi, National Unity Party; U Maung Maung, Union Pa-o National Organization; U Anthony Soe alias U La Yang, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party; U Maung Tin alias U Khin Maung Thein from Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization; U Mahn Tin Maung alias U Mahn Myo Nyunt, Union Kayin [Karen] League; and U Yan Kyin Kang, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party. The meeting ended at 1530.

The panel discussion of the elected representatives was held at 1300 today in Meeting Room No. 4. It was presided over by the alternate chairman, U Mahn Tin Aung Than, with U Myo Nyunt acting as secretary of the meeting. At the meeting, U Hla Pe, National League for Democracy, Moulmeingyun constituency-1 of the Irrawaddy Division; U Hkun Tun U, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, Hsipaw constituency-1 of the Shan State; U Thein Tun, National Unity Party, Ingapu constituency-2 of the Irrawaddy Division; and U San Hla, Union Pa-o National Organization, Hopong constituency of the Shan State presented their suggestions. The meeting ended at 1530.

The panel discussion of the delegates of national races was held at 1300 today in the Meeting Hall No. 1. U Kyin Nyunt of Yangon Division presided over the meeting as the alternate chairman and U San Tun acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates presented their suggestions at the meeting: U Mya Thein, Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division; U Pyaw, Myaung Township, Sagaing Division; and U Hla Baw, Monyo Township, Pegu Division. The meeting ended at 1330.

The panel discussion of the peasant delegates group was held at 1300 today in the Meeting Hall No. 7 in the Kyaikkasan Grounds, Yangon. U Thein Ngwe of Irrawaddy Division presided over the meeting as alternate chairman and U Thant Zin acted as secretary of the

meeting. After the alternate chairman delivered an opening address, the meeting discussed chapter headings of the state constitution. The following delegates took part in the discussions: U Ma Bun, Matupi, Chin State; U Shei Yei, Loikaw, Kayah State; U Than Maung, Kanbalu, Sagaing Division; U Chit Than, Ngazun Township; U Htein Lin, Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division; U Thaung Khin, Shwetaung, Pegu Division; U Win Shwe, Sagu, Magwe Division; U Kyi Maung, Myhitha, Mandalay Division; and U Chit Swe, Pagan-Nyaung-U Township; U Thein Maung, Buthidaung, Rakhine State; U Mya Aye, Kayan, Yangon Division; U Kyaw Nyein, Kalaw, Shan State; and U Pho Kyaw, Ingapu, Irrawaddy Division. The meeting ended at 1400.

The panel discussion of workers' delegates was held at 1300 today in the Meeting Room No. 6. U Tin U of Meiktila, Mandalay Division, presided over the meeting as alternate chairman and U Kyaw Zaw Naing acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions at the meeting: U Kyaw Myint Lin, Padaung, Pegu Division; U Tun Hla, Shwepyetha, Yangon Division; U Thin Kyu, Syriam Yangon Division; U Maung Maung Than, Kyangin, Irrawaddy Division; U Kyaw Nyunt alias U Nyunt Lwin, Loikaw, Kayah State; U Aung San, Pakokku, Pegu Division; U Than Myint, Dagon South Township, Yangon Division; U Hsun Lut Naw, Myitkyina, Kachin State; U Hke Kwee Shein, Mindat, Chin State; U Wan Htein, Thanbyuzayat, Mon State; U Hla Tun, Singaing, Mandalay Division; U Khin Maung Swe, Hlaing Township, Yangon Division; U Thein Aung, Taunggyi, Shan State; U Shwe, Syriam, Yangon Division; and Dr. Myo Thant Tin, Ahlone Township, Yangon Division. The meeting ended at 1510.

The panel discussion by delegates of the intelligentsia and technocratic field was held at 1300 today in Meeting Room No. 3. Retired Professor U Aung Than presided over the meeting as alternate chairman and U Kyaw Sein acted as secretary of the meeting. The following delegates participated in the discussions: U Myat Thu alias Thaikatho Mya Thu, writer; U Khin Soe, legal expert; Dr. Mya U, rector; Dr. Ko Lay, director general; U Thein Naing, professor; U Min Naing, artist; U Soe Myint, deputy director general; Daw Khin Mi Mi Tun, registrar; U Zaw Myint Pe, director; U Thein Po Saw, nuclear scientist; Dr. Than Htike, director general; Dr. Thein Nyunt, surgeon; and Nyunt Wai of Katha. The meeting ended at 1435.

The panel discussion of public service delegates was held at 1300 today in Meeting Room No. 8. U Tun Shwe of the Ministry of Labor presided over the meeting as the alternate chairman while U Thein Aung acted as secretary of the meeting.

The following delegates presented suggestions on chapter headings that should be included in the constitution: U San Aung, Ministry of Energy; U Tun Aung, Ministry of Construction; Dr. Kyaw Win, Ministry of Health; U Hkun Ba Yin, Ministry of Education; U Ko Ko Gyi,

Office of the President; Dr. Myint Lwin, Health Department; and U Myint Thein, Office of the People's Assembly. The meeting ended at 1400.

The panel discussion of delegates representing the invited guests was held at 1300 in Meeting Room No. 2. The delegates presented suggestions on chapter headings that should be included in the constitution. U Wun Tin, retired commissioner, presided over the meeting while U Soe Lwin acted as secretary of the meeting.

The following delegates participated in the discussion: U Saw Hla Tun, Chaung-u, Sagaing Division; U Hma Htu Naw, Shan State northern region; U Hke Bwe Byan, Kayan group; and U Myint Lwin alias U Wan Kwetar, Kutkai Township. The meeting ended at 1430.

The panel discussions by groups of delegates to the National Convention will continue tomorrow.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Military Chief Denies Plan To Buy MiG-29's

*BK0302070993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0617 GMT 3 Feb 93*

[Text] Singapore, Feb 3 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Malaysia and India Tuesday was to promote defence cooperation and not linked to the country's reported intention to purchase Russian MiG-29 fighter aircraft, Chief of Defence Forces General Yaacob Mohamed said Wednesday.

"We have evaluated a number of aircraft but we have not come to any decision," he told reporters when commenting on news agency reports that the MOU would pave the way for Malaysia to buy the MiG-29's.

Quoting defence analysts, the reports said Malaysia was close to announce the purchase of 30 MiG-29's and six Mi-24 Hind helicopter gunships from Russia in a deal worth more than U.S. \$500 million.

Yaacob reiterated that the MOU was to promote defence cooperation, similar to MOUs signed with other Commonwealth countries and non-Commonwealth countries like Italy, France, and South Korea.

He said apart from the MiG-29, Malaysia also received offers from the United States for the F-16 and F-18 aircraft, the Mirage 2000 from France, and Tornado fighters from Britain.

Yaacob, who is here for a farewell visit prior to his retirement on May 31, said if the Malaysian Government opted for the MiG-29's, India would be a natural source for maintenance and spares.

Deputy Premier Asks Rulers To Accept Amendment

BK0202093293 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0600 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Ghafar Baba has reiterated that Malaysia will remain a constitutional monarchy even if other countries become republics. Speaking in Kuala Lumpur, he advised Malay rulers to accept the constitutional amendment to limit the legal immunity as the move was made for their own benefit. He said the rulers still have time to think and accept the amendment. He was surprised that the rulers refused to listen to the advice of the citizens who respected them, whereas the rulers readily accepted the advice of the British colonialists who wanted to get rid of them. Asked by reporters if the government would hold further talks to the rulers on the matter, he said this would be unlikely as the government could not (?amend) the amendment further.

Kelantan Sultan Issues Public Criticism

BK0302054993 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 93 p 15

[By Kalimullah Hassan]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Kelantan's Sultan Ismail Petra has accused the Malaysian Government of forcing the Malay rulers to give their consent to the constitutional amendments by humiliating them.

Sultan Ismail, in his first public criticism of the federal government, said the Malay rulers were being insulted and humiliated "in an uncultured way through television, radio and the main newspapers without being given a chance to reply".

The sultan, who has long been at loggerheads with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said at a "people's dinner" in Kota Baru on Thursday: "Their intention is to isolate the rulers and create hatred for the monarchy."

In the strongly worded seven-page speech which was released by the Kelantan Palace, the sultan said many Malays did not support the amendments passed by Parliament to strip the nine Malay hereditary rulers of their legal immunity.

"The zealotry in amending the Constitution and trying to abolish the immunity of the Malay rulers is not an aspiration of the people as has been claimed.

"It arises from the desires of certain politicians who are still not satisfied with the power and wealth they enjoy," he said.

Outlining the relationship between the Malay rulers and the Malays, he said the Constitution had provided safeguards for the Malay race.

He said the decision by Parliament to amend the Constitution without the consent of the rulers, as required by the Constitution, was an illegal act.

Sultan Ismail said that if the Constitution was violated by the lawmakers themselves, the safeguards for the Malays were endangered.

"Although Parliament has passed the amendments, it is clear that these amendments are illegal. Furthermore, it is also clear that there is no solid support for the amendments because none of the opposition parties supported them," he said.

"That is why these amendments are being challenged by former Lord Presidents [of the Supreme Court], constitutional experts, independent Malay lawyers, and community leaders who understand history."

Sultan Ismail told the gathering that history would "note with sadness and regret that members of parliament who had sworn to uphold the Constitution were the first to violate and betray it, placing themselves above the law."

He said the rulers did not want to be placed above the law because they were "sons of Adam", like everyone else.

However, he said, the issue could be resolved if a bridge of understanding was built on Islamic principles.

He urged the people to ensure that the "good relations between the rulers and their subjects which had been maintained for generations would continue".

The sultan's comments at the thanksgiving feast at Istana [Palace] Balai Besar were the first public statements by a Malay ruler since last Monday, when they rejected the constitutional amendments.

Sultan Ismail is the nephew of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the former trade and industry minister who now heads the opposition Spirit of '46.

Government Orders UK Anti-Aircraft Missiles

BK3001113493 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1006 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 30 (OANA/BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Government has ordered the British-made "Starburst" anti-aircraft missile system for its armed forces, the Ministry of Defence said Saturday.

The purchase was made after a detailed assessment of the weapon's performance by a tri-service evaluation team which included live firings at a British military test range late last year, it said in a statement.

It said the man-portable "Starburst" missiles would be allocated to the army, ground units of the Royal Malaysian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Navy.

A single missile can be fired from the shoulder of one soldier or from the heavier triple launcher tripod.

"It is envisaged that the system will be widely deployed in the close and close-to-medium range defensive roles to protect bases, vital installations and strategically important assets," the statement added.

The statement did not indicate the cost or volume of the order but said the purchase of the system was covered by the Malaysia-British memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in September 1988 which was then reported to have cost about RM4.6 billion [Malaysian ringgit].

Singapore

Minister Addresses World Economic Forum

BK0102155193 Singapore THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 31 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] America and Europe should encourage greater economic co-operation among East and South-east Asian countries rather than fear it, Foreign Affairs Minister Wong Kan Seng said yesterday.

But he stressed that closer economic co-operation did not mean that the countries in this region intended to shut themselves out from the rest of the world. "It is not in our interest. It would be foolish of us to try. Indeed, it is impossible."

Speaking at a discussion on the topic "Should there be—will there be—an East Asian Economic Bloc?" at the World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, he dismissed the notion that East Asian nations were out to build an economic bloc.

"Conditions are such that I find it difficult to conceive of a world in which Europe, the Americas and East Asia can live without each other's goods and services," he said.

He is representing Singapore at the annual forum, an independent and non-profit making body aimed at contributing to worldwide economic and social programmes through interaction among world leaders. The meeting ends today.

In his speech, he noted that technology, patterns of trade and investment, and global production techniques have created irreversible interdependencies in the world.

"Japan, China, Korea and the ASEAN countries will all find it easier to have comfortable relationships with each other if they have healthy and comfortable relationships with the US and Europe."

At the same time, closer cooperation among East Asians would spur more growth in an already dynamic area, and create more stability and better opportunities for everyone.

He also gave figures to show East Asian and American inter-dependence. In 1990 trade with the US formed 17

per cent of total ASEAN trade 28 per cent of total Japanese trade, 28 per cent of total Korean trade and 11 per cent of China's trade.

In 1991, the US exported more than US\$11 billion to countries in this region.

Noting the US and Asia were "enmeshed with each other", he said that this would shape whatever institutions that evolve. On the proposed East Asian Economic Caucus he said this was an "attractive insurance policy" to create more structures in economic co-operation within East and South-east Asia.

The Minister of Information and the Arts and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs George Yeo will be attending the Global Leaders of Tomorrow Conference in Davos.

The conference, which follows the World Economic Forum, will be held from tomorrow to Wednesday, a Ministry of Information and the Arts statement said yesterday.

Indonesian Minister Comments on Cooperation

BK3001070793 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0323 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Singapore, Jan 29 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia can benefit a great deal from the industrial situation in Singapore which is now reaching its saturation level, by establishing a cooperation to develop the industries in the island republic.

The development of industries in Singapore is currently reaching a saturation level and we can benefit from such a situation, visiting Coordinating Minister of Economy, Finance and Industry Radius Prawiro told the press here Friday afternoon.

Radius, who was accompanied by Junior Minister of Industry Tungky Ariwibowo, said that Singapore's economy is faced with a condition in which labour costs are no longer competitive compared with other countries, such as China, Thailand and Indonesia.

In view of such economic situation. He said Indonesia can expect more investment and more cooperation in developing the industries and tourism in Indonesia.

Based on mutual benefit, Indonesia and Singapore have signed a cooperation agreement to develop industrial estates in Bintan Island (KIB), Riau.

Radius expressed hope that the project will be able to attract more investment from Singapore, where savings and reserved funds are vastly available.

Meanwhile, Tungky Ariwibowo said that the KIB would be specialized in accommodating industries of middle or lower scale as high technology was confined to Batam Island.

According to him, two groups of Singaporean industries, in the sectors of textile and furniture, have stated that they would relocate their production front to the KIB in Bintan.

Cambodia

Replacement Troopers for UN Force Arrive

BK0102021893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 1 Feb 93

[Text] The first batch of the Garuda XII-D contingent for the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, consisting of 202 personnel including 50 policemen, arrived at Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport by a special aircraft yesterday. The contingent, led by Brigadier General (Tuswandi), was welcomed by Brigadier General (Tamlika Ali), commander of the Garuda XII contingent, concurrently military chief of staff of UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] at a simple welcoming ceremony.

On the same occasion, Brig. Gen. (Tamlika Ali) also sent off 223 members of the Garuda XII-B contingent, who had served in Kompong Thom for nine months and were scheduled to return home. He urged the returning troopers to make use of their experience while serving in Cambodia for their further duties in Indonesia.

Paper Urges Expulsion of 'Warlike' Khmer Rouge

BK0202095393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Feb 93

[PRACHEACHON commentary: "The Final Day for the Khmer Rouge Has Come"]

[Text] By now, the deadline—set in light of the spirit of the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 792 dated 30 November 1992, Clause 5, according to which the Khmer Rouge must give the answer whether they will return to implement the Paris agreement or not—has passed.

The Khmer Rouge did not care about this resolution. They have not registered their party nor allowed the people in their zone to sign up for elections according to the schedule set by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. Lately, they even announced openly that they would not take part in the elections of both the president and constituent assembly.

This means that they refuse to rejoin the Paris peace agreement that they also signed.

This attitude of the hardheaded Khmer Rouge clearly shows that they are still walking on the unchanging path that they have set as their strategy. The path that the Khmer Rouge have chosen is to continue the war and all kinds of destruction. They have already decided to become rebels rather than returning to join the elections from which they think they will not gain anything.

It is based on this strategy that, from the day the implementation of the Paris agreement began to the present, not only have they failed to contribute to the implementation, but have always created obstacles to hinder the implementation and completely destroy the Paris agreement and the elections.

During the past more than 15 months of the peace accord implementation, not only have the Khmer Rouge committed military violations, but they have also launched terrorist acts menacing both Cambodian people and UNTAC staffs and personnel.

We have come to realize that it is now time to stop giving the Khmer Rouge any more chance since they have refused to implement the peace agreement.

We would like to appeal to the United Nations, whose major duty is to protect the peacekeeping mission in Cambodia, to take strict measures and stop leaving its doors open limitlessly to the Khmer Rouge. This is because if the Khmer Rouge are given an endless chance, they will certainly carry on their efforts to destroy the accord implementation through to the end. Time has been spent worthlessly to curry favor with and bring the warlike Khmer Rouge back to the peace process in Cambodia.

Now more than ever before, we think that only by doing everything as spelled out in the 5 January statement of the State of Cambodia—which represents the sacred aspiration and genuine interests of the Cambodian people—it would not be too late to salvage the UN peace plan and all those who are implementing the Paris agreement, especially the Cambodian people, from becoming the hostages of the Khmer Rouge.

Khmer Rouge Counterattacks Forces Near Pailin

BK0302003393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] Khmer Rouge guerrilla fighters launched a small-scale counterattack against Phnom Penh Government forces near the gem mining town of Pailin, a source close to the former Cambodian resistance said yesterday. Khmer Rouge forces recently attacked government troop positions around Pailin from the rear, causing an unknown number of casualties as well as yielding several prisoners, the source told the BANGKOK POST. The disclosure yesterday marked the first reported account of a Khmer Rouge counterattack which came in response to Phnom Penh's latest ground offensive. The Khmer Rouge were said to have hit back some time last week but the report has not yet been verified by independent sources. The report emerged amid indications of continued tension in the area. Phnom Penh forces yesterday morning reportedly pounded with artillery and rockets a Khmer Rouge position located at about 10 kilometres east of Phum Treng, on the strategic Route 10 that links Pailin and Battambang. But there has been no indication of the extent of damage inflicted in the report which originated from a Khmer Rouge field officer responsible

for an area further north, in Si Sophon of Banteay Meanchey. The stand-off in the Pailin sector pits the Khmer Rouge's 519th Division against the Phnom Penh's Third Division. The Khmer Rouge have long held the area rich in rubies and sapphires which have been a lucrative and necessary source of income. The Khmer Rouge lost their Pailin stronghold to a Vietnamese-led dry season offensive in early 1985. But they retook it after the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia in September 1989, border sources noted. The latest situation showed that Phnom Penh was substantially depleted in military strength, the source close to the resistance argued. Phnom Penh's Third Division, seated in Kompong Chhnang, had to call on militia from the province to back up their action, the source pointed out.

Khieu Kanharit: No Intention To Take Pailin

*BK0302034193 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] On the morning of 2 February at Sakal Muoy Hotel, Khieu Kanharit, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers office, adviser to the chairman of the Council of Ministers, and spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, and General Pan Thai, adviser to the chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a weekly news conference. National and international reporters and representatives from various embassies in Cambodia participated.

Commenting on a report that the Phnom Penh government's troops had launched an offensive in the Pailin region, Khieu Kanharit said that we have no such intention. The military operation, he continued, was aimed only at pushing back the Khmer Rouge from the SOC-controlled areas that they had violated. Another aim was to protect the people harvesting in the region [words indistinct] in order to provide security to our forces, which used to come under heavy shelling from the Khmer Rouge in the past. The spokesman clearly underlined: What we have done is only to defend ourselves from Khmer Rouge attacks. (Can elections in Cambodia be held in a climate of stability) if we continue to retreat, if the number of voters continues to diminish, and if our territory continues to shrink? We have no reason to attack in order to retake Pailin.

In respect to the charge made by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] that the SOC has been attempting to block court procedures, Khieu Kanharit said that the accusation is unwarranted because there is no law prescribing that the men arrested in Kampot and Kompong Chhnang Provinces can be tried in Phnom Penh. The laws define that it is the court in the area where an incident occurs that has jurisdiction over the matter. The order for the victim and accused to appear in court in another locality is completely against SOC

laws. We have no intention of hindering court procedures, but according to the legal system, it is the local court that is competent to hear the cases.

The government spokesman spoke next on the issue of providing security to offices of various political parties. He said that His Excellency Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and National Assembly of the SOC, appealed at the recent National Assembly session to authorities in every locality to ensure security for all political parties' offices. He also condemned all types of political violence and terrorism, especially the Khmer Rouge's activities. Khieu Kanharit added that, at a recent SNC meeting in Beijing, representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council proposed that the SNC present reports on the issue of political terrorism and ensuring security to UNTAC staff members. The proposal was endorsed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the SOC side, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] faction, and the faction of Mr. Son Sann, but it was rejected by the Khmer Rouge. In the end, Prince Norodom Sihanouk reluctantly issued a statement himself. This demonstrates that the Khmer Rouge have continued to nurture the ambition of committing political violence.

Asked by a reporter whether we will continue military action, Khieu Kanharit said that our position is to ensure security for the people, so we will not further the activities. Nonetheless, should the Khmer Rouge continue its violations, we are bound to exert (the right to self-defense). The spokesman also rejected reports that the SOC has forced people to serve in the army, saying that at present, the SOC has more than enough troops for self-defense. This can be checked through the scrutiny of Defense Ministry wage records.

On UNTAC's claim that the SOC side did not exert the right to self-defense but launched a direct offensive, Khieu Kanharit said that he did not know whether the UNTAC spokesman concerned had any knowledge of military strategy. And with regard to the recent military situation, he added, everyone knows that it was the Khmer Rouge who were the violators.

Answering questions raised by the national and international reporters, Gen. Pan Thai showed a map of the Khmer Rouge's positions, which were scattered along the Cambodian-Thai border before the signing of the Paris peace accord and those that have been expanded into SOC territory since the agreement came into existence. The Khmer Rouge vigorously attacked Bavel District and shelled the positions of the (196th) and fourth divisions of the SOC, causing some 3,043 families to flee their houses. And until now, the Khmer Rouge continue to shell Bavel District and Ta Hen area daily, causing heavy loss to the people's lives and property.

Attack To Create 'Buffer Zone'

BK0302054093 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0414
GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK Feb. 3—The Phnom Penh government said Tuesday that part of the reason for its massive offensive against the Khmer Rouge launched last week was to create a buffer zone monitored by U.N. peacekeepers, reports AFP.

"We're trying to seek a compromise so there will be a buffer zone between us and the Khmer Rouge," said senior government adviser and Deputy Minister Khieu Kanharit, proposing a five kilometer (three mile) separation of forces with artillery moved out of firing range.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had no immediate reaction, but U.N. officials said privately that such a plan would be unworkable because the Khmer Rouge are scattered in pockets throughout the country rather than concentrated behind one frontline. Meanwhile fighting at the village level continued in central Cambodia's Kompong Thom, Siem Reap and Preah Vihear Provinces on Monday, UNTAC spokesman Eric Berman said.

All was quiet on the western front near the Khmer Rouge gem mining town of Pailin where government troops were reinforcing the positions they took in last week's fighting, he said.

The Khmer Rouge insist that Vietnamese troops are backing the Phnom Penh government, an allegation Hanoi denies.

Khieu Kanharit denied that the offensive would drive as far as Pailin. He said government forces had captured a large swath of territory 40 kilometers to the east, and that front-line troops had advanced as close as 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the provincial town.

He said the attack was justified because the Khmer Rouge were shelling villages and preventing the harvest of this year's rice crop.

"The objective of the mission is to push back the Khmer Rouge heavy equipment from the frontline," Khieu Kanharit said. "Now the mission is complete. It was a great success. It was purely a defensive action."

U.N. peacekeepers, however, had called the fighting the largest cease-fire violation since the U.N. operation began nearly a year ago. The scale of the offensive exceeded the government's right to self-defense, U.N. officials said.

While the initial push was over, continued shelling by the Khmer Rouge would be met with continued fighting by the government, Khieu Kanharit said.

He said the government would have been justified in retaking territory it had controlled up to two kilometers

(one mile) from Pailin at the time of the signing of the Paris peace accords, but the loss of life would be prohibitively great.

The Khmer Rouge claim to have held territory up to 30 kilometers (19 miles) outside of Pailin, whose gems are a lucrative source of revenue for the guerrilla faction, an assertion generally accepted by independent observers.

The government's 10-kilometer (six mile) gain towards Pailin last week put the town within range of Phnom Penh's biggest weapon, 130-mm artillery, but Khieu Kanharit denied that his army had the capability to use it there.

Government military spokesman General Phan Thai said five soldiers were killed and 25 injured in the offensive near Pailin, but that there were no injuries in the fighting in central Cambodia.

He claimed that 51 Khmer Rouge guerrillas were killed, 89 were wounded and two were captured by Phnom Penh government forces.

UNTAC To 'Consider' Buffer Zone

BK0302094793 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT
3 Feb 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Feb 3 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers said Wednesday they would consider a government proposal to set up a buffer zone between government forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas in order to prevent renewed fighting in Cambodia.

The proposal was made during a meeting between Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi on Tuesday.

"Hun Sen said (the government) would not renew attacks if UNTAC imposed themselves as a buffer," UNTAC spokesman Eric Berman said.

"UNTAC is discussing the proposal and will continue to look into it," he said. "However, the point has been made ... that an agreement between the two sides is essential. A ceasefire cannot be monitored from one side only."

The Khmer Rouge have not responded to the proposal, Berman said.

A buffer zone could not be set up unless both sides agree to a complete ceasefire, he said.

"We'd be putting people in harm's way, potentially," Berman said.

All four of Cambodia's warring factions signed a peace accord in October 1991 pledging a ceasefire and allowing the formation of UNTAC to hold elections for a new government.

So far, the Khmer Rouge have not cooperated with UNTAC's implementation of the peace accords, calling it biased.

Government forces launched last week what Berman called the biggest offensive against the Khmer Rouge since UNTAC arrived in Cambodia.

Phnom Penh officials said Tuesday that their offensive was over, but that they would continue fighting if the Khmer Rouge counter-attacked.

Artillery and mortar fire continued in central Kompong Thom Province on Tuesday, Berman said.

The government reported to UNTAC that it had found three Khmer Rouge arms caches containing hundreds of rounds of ammunition, including 82mm and 60mm mortars.

The situation around the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Pailin in western Cambodia was tense, with rounds of artillery still being heard, he said.

U.N. peacekeepers were denied access to the front and could not get a clear picture of what was happening, he said.

Hun Sen and Akashi also discussed the legal impasse that resulted when UNTAC arrested two suspects for murder and Phnom Penh judges refused to try them on government orders.

"Mr. Akashi stressed the importance of a separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive and the need for judges to be independent of local authorities," Berman said.

The government has claimed that the law does not permit suspects to be tried out of the jurisdiction where the crimes took place.

Both murder cases UNTAC is attempting to bring to court occurred in the provinces.

However, Berman said the 1982 law used by the government to justify its stand does permit a change in venue, and so does the penal code adopted by the Supreme National Council (SNC) last year.

However, Hun Sen had argued there was no precedent, Berman said.

The meeting adjourned without agreement, and as a result both suspects were being held without trial in violation of their rights under the penal code.

Akashi was to sign a decree late Wednesday authorizing their detention "until appropriate and fair legal arrangements could be made to try them in a competent court," Berman said.

Minister Receives Singapore Economic Delegates

*BK0102123493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
31 Jan 93*

[Text] On the morning of 27 January, Nhim Vanda, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and trade minister, received a delegation of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce led by (Li Ing-kuang) and (Bung Kham).

Nhim Vanda spoke on the general situation in the State of Cambodia [SOC], such as changes in the economic and commercial fields. He said that the SOC is currently implementing a free-market economy which is welcomed by the people. He also spoke of the outcome of the implementation of the Paris agreement, adding that the SOC has correctly implemented the agreement to achieve national reconciliation and bring peace to the Cambodian motherland and people.

The delegation of the Singapore Chamber of Commerce expressed hope that the coming elections of the Cambodian constituent assembly will proceed correctly, fairly, and successfully.

The delegation also expressed its intention to cooperate with the Cambodian cigarette company and to entreat other Singapore companies to invest in Cambodia.

Hun Sen Welcomes Thai Princess Chulaphon

*BK0102075993 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT
1 Feb 93*

[Text] A delegation of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand led by Dr. Princess Chulaphon, daughter of his majesty the king of Thailand, arrived in Phnom Penh at 1010 on 1 February for a two-day official visit. On hand to welcome the 6Thai delegation at Pochentong Airport were His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia; H.E. Akashi, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head; H.E. General Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, defense minister, and SNC member, and his wife; and H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and his wife, as well as a great many officials, teachers, and students.

Also present were H.E. Sunai Bunyasiriphan, Thai ambassador to Cambodia, and other diplomats from various embassies in Cambodia.

During her stay in Cambodia, Princess Chulaphon is scheduled to meet with H.E. Hun Sen and H.E. Akashi and to visit Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province for one day.

Indonesia

Alatas: No New Move to Solve Cambodian Problem

BK0302081893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas says in line with the UN Security Council's Resolution No. 792, there will be no new move to settle the Cambodian problem before the convening of another UN Security Council meeting. Speaking to reporters in Jakarta, Minister Alatas said the upcoming UN Security Council meeting, scheduled for 15 February, should study reports on the latest situation in Cambodia presented by the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia], the UN secretary general, and cochairmen of the Paris peace conference on Cambodia. After studying these reports, the UN Security Council will take its stand and adopt a new policy if deemed necessary.

Minister Alatas stressed that the implementation of the Paris accord to restore peace in Cambodia has not thus far faced a stalemate. He admitted, however, that efforts by several groups to persuade the Khmer Rouge to take part in the elections have not been successful.

East Timor Governor: Xanana's Successor To Surrender

BK0302054593 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0500 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] East Timor Governor Abilio Soares says the person who has replaced Xanana Gusmao, the captured East Timor anti-integration movement leader, as new leader will surrender to the authorities in two months' time. Speaking to Portuguese journalists who were covering Xanana's trial in Dili, the governor said that local security authorities had already detected the hideouts of GPK [Security Disturbance Movement] members who continued their armed struggle against the Indonesian Government. He added that remnants of the movement will not be allowed to continue their resistance to the government.

Court Authority Questioned in Xanana Trial

BK0302111893 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1014 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Dili, Feb. 3 (ANTARA)—The second-day trial of the leader of the East Timor Security Disturbance Movement, Jose Alexandre Xanana Gusmao (46) here on Wednesday was marked by his lawyer reading his 10-page exceptions.

Xanana's lawyer, Sujono, in his exceptions questioned the authority of the Indonesian district court in trying Gusmao.

Sujono also said that the prosecutor's charges read on the first-day trial were outside historical facts.

Xanana's trial on the second day went smoothly without remarkable security controls, although attendants were tightly examined before entering the court room.

Xanana's father and mother Antonian H. Gusmao and other relatives were among the attendants.

Before entering the court room Gusmao waved his hands to reporters who had been waiting for taking his pictures.

The session, which was presided over by Judge Hieronymus Godang, lasted only an hour.

The third session will be held on Friday during which the prosecutor will read his response to the lawyer's exceptions.

Prosecutor I. Ketut Swara has charged Gusmao of rebellion, conspiracy, and trying to set up a separate state. He was also charged of illegally holding firearms.

With such charges he may face a maximum penalty of life sentence.

Further on Challenge to Court

BK0302103393 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 3 Feb 93

[From "International Report" program]

[Text] The lawyer heading the team defending East Timorese independence Leader, Xanana Gusmao, has challenged the authority of the court in the former Portuguese colony to hear the case. On the second day of his trial on rebellion, conspiracy, separatism, and firearms charges, Mr. Gusmao's defense council argued that the rebel leader and his followers were pressing for East Timor's independence even before Indonesia annexed the territory in 1976 and thus he never recognized institutions such as the Dili district court, where the current trial is taking place. Ian Macintosh reports from Dili:

[Begin Macintosh recording] For most observers in a crowded Dili court room the argument mounted by Xanana Gusmao's defense team was a strange, even contradictory one. Chief Consul Sudjono in challenging the authority of the court to hear the case against his client seems to be ignoring Mr. Gusmao's admission during Monday's opening session that he was an Indonesian citizen. Mr. Sudjono later explained that his was a defense tactic and aimed at forcing the prosecution to prove the allegations made against the rebel leader.

He contended it would be difficult for his opponents to sustain their contention that Mr. Gusmao was an Indonesian at the time when the alleged offenses took place. And while he didn't say as much when talking to reporters after the brief hearing, it was clear that the Jakarta advocate knew only too well the East Timorese unresolved status in international law. Being regarded as Indonesian in fact or in law by some countries including Australia, it is still recognized by the United Nations as

Portugal's responsibility more than 17 years after Lisbon's officials left the territory.

In his detailed 21-page summary of the post-World War II political history of the province, Mr. Sudjono showed that his team had closely studied international law as it might relate to Xanana Gusmao's case. It is known that the 53-year-old lawyer was briefed by the Indonesian Foreign Ministry while preparing the defense's position. One senior Portuguese journalist covering the Gusmao trial, later observed that while Mr. Sudjono's tactic of questioning the authority of the court on such grounds might appear strange, it was exactly the kind of approach a good defense lawyer would adopt in Portugal. And the defense council told reporters that his client agreed with the stance he put to the three-judge panel hearing the trial.

Mr. Sudjono, who said he was seeing Xanana Gusmao on a daily basis, also made it clear he had a very high opinion of his client, describing him as very brilliant in his way of thinking. According to the lawyer, Mr. Gusmao seemed more like an intellectual than a rebel. But observers believe he will also need more than his fair share of good fortune if the court is to accept the defense argument that it lacks the authority to hear the case.

Meanwhile, the defendant himself appears well aware of the international interest in his current situation. As he walked into the court for the second day of the trial, Xanana Gusmao called out to the press corps in clear English: you must attend this process until the end. The hearing resumes on Friday when the prosecution will have its say on the defense's challenge to the court's jurisdiction. [end recording]

Legal System Needs Review Before Joining AFTA

BK0202091493 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0706 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Bandung, Feb 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia needs to change its present legal system, which is inherited by the Dutch colonial rulers, if the government wants to take optimal advantages of the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), according to an official here Monday.

There should be a crash program to replace the civil codes, penal codes and commercial ones which are currently still effective in Indonesia, head of the Agency for National Legal Development (BPHN) Professor C.F.G. Sunaryati Hartono said.

Speaking at a seminar on the legal aspects on economic cooperation under the framework AFTA, Mrs. Hartono stressed the importance of such a review to give more flexible legal foundation to business world in setting up economic cooperation in the ASEAN region. ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, groups Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore. These countries have agreed to establish a free trade area in Southeast Asia within the upcoming 15 years.

In addition, the professor said that the present law of colonial legacy was out-dated and Indonesia was left behind other member countries of ASEAN in the field of law, especially on commercial one. [as received]

It is the reason why, according to the head of BPHN, Indonesia should renew its codes of law to harmonize them with other ASEAN nations.

The harmony of legal system among member countries of ASEAN, particularly on trade and intellectual property right protection, is very urgent to support the realization of a smooth regional economic cooperation, she added.

Monetary Policy To Be Implemented 'Cautiously'

BK0302112293 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0948 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 3 (OANA/ANTARA)—The government will implement its monetary and fiscal policy cautiously and will keep in good running the flow of goods and services to anticipate possible inflation pressures on the 1993-94 state's budget of revenue and expenditures, finance minister, J.B. Sumarlin, said here on Tuesday.

He mentioned this in reply to a question posed by a legislator in a working meeting with the House of People's Representatives Commission VII [Roman numeral seven], which among other things deals with financial affairs, presided over by its chairman, Syaiful Anwar Husein.

According to Sumarlin, the government has calculated the impact of inflation stemming from 1993-94 budget and from outside it.

Prior to this a commission member expressed his worry about a possible rise in inflation rate as the 1993-94 budget contains this likelihood, it being quite expansive so that it will affect the amount of money in circulation while outside the budget the abolition of fuel oil subsidies will lead to an overall increase of prices.

In response to this, the minister pointed that worrying about this likelihood was quite natural, but inquired whether it was the right thing to do.

"The budget is not expansive," explained the minister, "as its expansion is negative, about (rupiah) rp 4 trillion (more or less US\$ 2 billion) and this will be covered by a projected 17 percent increase in loans. [no closing quotation marks as received]

As regards the impact of the raised prices of fuel oil on the rate of inflation, he admitted that the month of January saw an increase of almost 3 percent instead of the projected 2.4 percent as the prices of fruit and vegetables had gone up as a result of delayed transportation brought about by inundation in some regions.

However, Sumarlin went on, the rate of inflation will be that much only for the time being as it will again drop once it is curbed and the flow of goods and services has returned to normal.

Laos

Government To Combat Illegal Border Trade

BK0302064193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] Currently, trade along border areas appears to be very bustling. Some traders, who violate trading regulations, always utilize and exploit Document No. 11, which grants privileges to (?transit) passengers to bring some personal belongings [into Laos]. At times, these people bring in a large quantity of belongings and turn them into goods for sale later without receiving government permission. This practice has caused adverse effects on legitimate and patented companies that regularly pay taxes to the state. These companies cannot compete with the said border traders.

The Ministry of Trade and Tourism reveals that border trade has occurred all along our border areas with Thailand, Myanmar, China, Vietnam, and Cambodia. Such trading began in 1992. This trading practice has remained very hectic so far and now has gained momentum. Efforts must be urgently taken to resolve certain problems regarding this activity. This is because a large number of border traders from some friendly countries bring their goods into Laos for sale along the border areas without receiving permission, causing adverse effects on domestic production in our country. Therefore, beginning in 1993, the ministry has taken steps to rectify this problem by adopting measures to curb illegal trading and by appropriately and correctly applying regulations to control border traders. For example, the types of products and goods imported or exported must be classified to protect domestic production. Trading permits must be issued for the purpose of collecting taxes for revenue. Moreover, efforts must be made to coordinate with the tax and revenue service to collect overdue import duties. All this is aimed at gradually discouraging illegal border trade.

Bolikhamsai-Nong Khai Border Committees Meet

BK3001140293 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] A meeting of the Lao-Thai border peacekeeping cooperation committees of Laos' Bolikhamsai Province and Thailand's Nong Khai Province was officially held in Bolikhamsai Province on 29 January under the cochairmanship of Ounla Sai-gnasan and Anan Chaengklip, respectively governors of Bolikhamsai and Nong Khai Provinces.

At the meeting—held for the first time in 1993, the two sides unanimously assessed the situation of the further development of relations between the peoples of

Bolikhamsai and Nong Khai Provinces. They also pledged to consult with each other to find ways to resolve any problems and to build mutual understanding on the basis of the legal foundations in each country and mutual benefits so as to maintain peace and order along the common border of the two countries.

The border peacekeeping cooperation committees of Bolikhamsai and Nong Khai Provinces also signed a memorandum on various issues, such as the opening of a border crossing point between Laos' Paksane District and Thailand's Bungkan District and the suppression of narcotics trafficking, cross-border crimes, smuggling, and illegal immigration aimed at maintaining and safeguarding peace and order along the border between the two provinces. The memorandum also spelled out the mechanism of coordination between the two cooperation committees, which conformed to the spirit of the cooperation agreement signed between the National-level Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committees in Vientiane on 15 December 1992.

Houa Phan Province Facing Rice Shortage

BK3001101093 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 30 (KPL)—Rice output in Houa Phan Province last year was comparatively low, as a result of unfavorable climatic conditions.

According to a local report, the Houa Phan people will face during a period of three months rice shortage of about 16 tons.

A total areas put under rice in the province last year were 35,188 hectares but only 27,600 ha of which could be harvested with a rice output of 64 tons. [sentence as received] The bad harvest was due to drought and pest destruction.

Now the local farmers are striving to grow irrigated second rice crop where practicable and to grow more subsidiary and industrial crops as a way to remedy the stated of rice shortage. [sentence as received]

Delegation Studies SRV Inspection Work

BK0302023393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 3 Jan 93

[Text] Maichantan Sengmani, member of party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the party Central Committee's Party-State Inspection Board, led the Lao delegation to return to Vientiane by a special plane on the afternoon of 2 February after paying a 9-day official visit to Vietnam.

The working visit to the SRV was made by Maichantan Sengmani at the invitation of Comrade (?Le Phuoc Tho), secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CPV VCC] and chairman of the CPV CC Party-State Inspection Board, in accordance with the

implementation of the agreement and protocol on special (?friendship) and comprehensive cooperation between the parties and governments of Laos and Vietnam and with a view to increasing and strengthening cooperation between the inspection boards of the two countries, including exchanging lessons on inspection work. The Lao delegation visited several production establishments in northern and southern Vietnam to draw lessons on inspection work for application in the new situation in Laos in conformity with restructuring.

At Wattai Airport, Dr. Davong Vongsak, alternate member of the party Central Committee and deputy chairman of the party Central Committee Party-State Inspection Board; Nguyen Xuan, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos; and a number of high-ranking Lao and Vietnamese cadres concerned were on hand to welcome the delegation.

Additional Refugees Return From Thailand

BK3001100093 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 30 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, Jan 30 (KPL)—A group of 44 Lao refugees on January 27 returned home from Napho refugees' camp in Thai Nakhon Phanom Province through Song Mek, a border crossing between Thai Ubon Ratchathani and Lao Champassak Provinces.

The group of refugees, on arrival, was warmly welcomed by the local authorities concerned of Champassak Province and the representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare. Of them, 21 were of Champassak origin and 23 of Savannakhet origin.

UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] officials, who were also present at the welcoming ceremony, presented rice, household utensils and farm tools worth over 7 million kip to the returnees. The rice is enough for their consumption for a period of 18 months.

Ministry Issues Slash-and-Burn Instructions

BK0202060793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] In late January, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry issued instructions to agriculture and forestry services of all provinces, Sianghon-Hongsa Special Zone, and Vientiane Municipality, on measures controlling slash-and-burn cultivation and preventing bush fire during the dry season.

The instructions suggest that each province disseminate the party and state policies to farmers and multiethnic people and encourage them all to actively implement the policies and measures to eradicate slash-and-burn cultivation which adversely affects natural resources and environment. The multiethnic people who still earn their living through slash-and-burn cultivation should be encouraged to shift to stationary cultivation or planting rotation crops.

The instructions also absolutely prohibit encroaching and slash-and-burn cultivation in prohibited forest areas, forest reserves, and protection, production, and rehabilitation forests. Slash-and-burn cultivation and felling of trees in watershed areas and forest areas of sloping degrees exceeding 25 percent are also prohibited.

The instructions also resolutely prohibit the destruction of forests and hunting animals in forests of any condition. All related sectors are advised to strictly impose measures against violators of various rules and regulations, principles, and instructions on forestry.

Government To Implement Organization Improvement Plan

BK2901103493 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Vientiane, January 29 (KPL)—In the line with a plan to improve both party and state organisations adopted by the recent conference on organisation work, ministries and state agencies at all levels will this year strive to further improve and simplify their respective organisations as well as their work methods.

The ministries and state agencies have to make efforts to complete the work within the first quarter of the year leading to a reduction in the number of public servants, which must be just 1 per cent of the total population in the country.

Meanwhile, improvements within the party are also to be made to ensure the efficiency of the party leadership at all levels.

Policies and incentives towards and public servants have to be reconsidered so that the cadres and public servants can enjoy benefits from such policies and incentives as provided by law.

In addition, a policy on remuneration for village headmen, their assistants, secretaries of party units and others is to be studied and submitted to the party Central Committee and the government for consideration.

Philippines

Ramos Thanks Clinton for Honoring Envoy

HK0302120493 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 3 Feb 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has expressed gratitude to U.S. President William Clinton for honors the United States has given to former Philippine Ambassador to Washington Pablo Suarez who recently passed away. Ramos said the Clinton administration bestowed honors to the country by giving Suarez a posthumous ambassador's award.

Ramos sent the message of thanks through a letter he sent to President Clinton. Ramos recognized the goodness and unexpected service that America made when it

brought back to the Philippines the remains of Suarez on a U.S. plane escorted by high-ranking officials.

Suarez was given full military honors at Andrews Air Force base before departure. Suarez's remains arrived last Saturday [30 January] and will be interred today. Suarez passed away on 25 January due to massive intestinal hemorrhage. He passed away before he was supposed to file his credentials as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the United States.

Ramos Reiterates Commitment to Sabah Claim

HK0202064493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 2 Feb 93 p 6

[Text] President Ramos yesterday brushed aside news reports that he has assured Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad the government would soon drop its claim to the East Malaysian state of Sabah. In a news conference at Malacanang, the President said the reports were "just a media version," adding "the full and complete report is in my arrival statement."

Last Saturday [30 January], the Kuala Lumpur-based New Straits Times reported that the President "agreed to continue efforts initiated by his predecessor, Corazon Aquino, to drop the Philippine claim on Sabah."

"Aquino had initiated moves to drop the claim but her efforts were blocked by the Philippine Senate," the paper also said. Mahathir was also quoted by the same publication as saying that "as far as we are concerned, Sabah belongs to us."

Mr. Ramos has repeatedly said that contrary to some reports, the government has not dropped its claim to Sabah. In a press statement Saturday, when he returned from a four-day state visit to Malaysia, the President said he brought within him new hope for settling "contentious issues" like the Sabah dispute, the main source of friction between Manila and Kuala Lumpur. He said that trip was "successful beyond expectations."

It was the first time a Philippine president had visited Malaysia in 25 years, a period marked by icy relations between the two countries, although they both belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Philippines cut diplomatic ties with Malaysia when the Kuala Lumpur government rejected Manila's claim to Sabah after the East Malaysian state joined the Malaysian federation in 1963. Diplomatic ties were restored later. However, relations between the two ASEAN member-states were never the same again. According to Mr. Ramos, his Malaysian trip "laid the foundations for a special bridge between Manila and Kuala Lumpur."

RAM Response to Changing Situation Viewed

HK0202063493 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 1 Feb 93 p 1

[First of two installments in a series by Conrado de Quiros]

[Text] "When I visit Col. Gregorio 'Gringo' Honasan's office in 1986," wrote Alfred McCoy, "his officers were toying with crossbows, Israeli assault rifles, and machine pistols. Instead of the standard AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] dress uniform for headquarters duty, the RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] boys marched about the defense ministry in jungle camouflage outfits, with quick-draw holsters holding exotic weapons. Instead of the short military haircuts, the RAM boys grew flamboyant manes, beards, and mustaches."

You remember this description each time you see the RAM boys these days, but you are hard put to reconcile it with what you see. Dressed tidily in jeans and polo shirts, the RAM boys stalk a grassy lawn under a blaze of lights only with the flamboyance of aging leopards. But they look very fit—for aging leopards.

The life of a fugitive agrees with him, chuckles ex-Commodore Domingo Calajate, a slight and venerable-looking man in his 60s. He gets a lot of exercise that way—particularly when trying to avoid being caught. Which nearly happened thrice. He doesn't say where.

Talk drifts to Charlene Sy, whom the police have just used for target practice, and the "RAM boys" emit strident imprecations. What utter ineptitude, they say. What utter contempt for life. Ah, they add, but this is merely a symptom of a larger disease—the corruption and malaise that have set in among the nation's law enforcers. Bad as the AFP is, muses one of them, the PNP [Philippine National Police] is worse. The AFP you can reform. The PNP you cannot. Short of firing everyone from captain up.

But something has changed, in mood at least if not in substance. It's not easy thinking of them as the RAM boys any more. Maybe they've grown older. Maybe they've grown wiser. But whether by accident or design, by force majeure or choice, the glamor is gone. The larger-than-life aura is gone. They no longer look like the storm that promises to cleanse the world of its rot, or threatens to raze everything in its path. They look like ordinary mortals tossed in the waves of confusion and dilemma. Maybe they've discovered that it's hard enough being equal to life. Maybe they've discovered that it's better to be equal to life than larger than it.

Their enemies, who remain legion, will not lack for explanations for it: Wolves do not merely take on sheep's clothing, they take on sheep's manners. Don't, they will warn, be taken in by the seeming docility. For if the RAM has excelled in anything, it is far less in the field of war than in the field of communications. It knows how to project an image. It can be alternately defiant and conciliatory as the need arises. It's not, they will say, that the RAM boys have come to a forked road, one that leads to peace and another to war. It's that they have forked tongues, one that says peace and another that means war.

If they are quieter and more ruminative today, their enemies will say some more, it's not out of choice. It's out of necessity. Defeat teaches very good lessons in

humility. As the recrimination of a public deeply wronged. The RAM boys, they will say, have been defeated. There's no way they can mount another coup attempt again. They are negotiating from a point of weakness. They're no longer flamboyant? They can't be flamboyant. Beggars are not choosers, nor are they loud.

Danny Lim smiles when he hears all this. "that was what they said in 1989. Look what happened." It's easy to see what the RAM is fighting against. Or what it thinks it's fighting against.

The "R" in RAM was "reform" before it became "revolusyonaryo," [revolutionary, the new name of RAM, which means Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance] which was how the group arose and which is how it has kept itself alive. By its avowal, it wanted to reform the AFP, an institution steeped in corruption and nepotism. As it was in [Ferdinand] Marcos' time, so is it now. Indeed, they say, more so now than then. For Cory [President Corazon Aquino] did not decimate the military, she enlarged it. She did not lower its budget, she raised it. Consequently, the corruption has not ebbed. It has flowed.

"We're not just talking about millionaire generals," says one of them, "we're talking about billionaire ones." That's how huge the plunder is. Indeed, the RAM claims to have done research on the extent of corruption in the AFP, complete with names and documentation. It plans to publish it at an opportune time.

Its presumed allies in this reform are the middle-level officers and the rank and file. The first either have not been drawn deeply into the web of corruption, or have enough idealistic reserves left in them to wish to change their immediate world. The second are the victims of the corruption—the common soldiers, the RAM says, are among the most exploited sectors in society—and naturally have a stake in ending it.

The RAM is wary of generals. After all, they are the principal authors of the corruption. And as the RAM's experience with them in 1989 showed, generals generally owe their loyalty only to the victor. Overnight, the RAM claims, many of them turned from coup plotters to constitutionalists. Indeed, some even went on to become top officials of the AFP. "They'll never be able to look me in the eye," a RAM member says. "Bistado ko Sila." [I know their secrets.]

But over the year, according to the RAM, its concept of reform went past the high towers of the AFP to the barbed wires of the society itself. "We saw," says Boy Maligalig, "that the AFP was just a microcosm of the outside world. The corruption inside was just a reflection of the corruption outside. We could not limit the reform only to the AFP. We had to extend it to the society itself."

Indeed, says Maligalig, it was clear that the common soldiers had more in common with his poor countrymen than his rich superiors, yet his gun had often been

trained against the citizens. "Yun ang masakit sa amin. [That is what hurts us.] We were killing each other when we had a common enemy in the corrupt generals and public officials." A bigger enemy needed a bigger alliance. They saw, says Maligalig, that it wasn't enough to draw support from the soldiers. They had to draw support from the citizens too.

Most of the RAM leaders had fled underground after the "Save the Queen" fiasco, and the August 1987 coup attempt forcefully demonstrated the need for public support. But the lesson had not been learned well. When the RAM struck in 1989, it had made no inroads into preparing the public mind for such an event. That was its strength and weakness. The very suddenness of it took government by surprise. That it very nearly succeeded in overthrowing it showed how large a following the RAM commanded in the AFP. That it did not succeed in the end showed how very little support it commanded from the public.

Of course, there's the theory that says the coup attempt did in fact succeed, but was turned back by the flight of the U.S. Phantom jets. But the RAM itself puts little stock in it. "When we launched that coup," says a member, "we thought the people would follow. Everything pointed to it. Times were hard, and the people were bitter. All they needed, we thought, was something like this. And, they would take to the streets. Had they done so, it would have been over. Not all the Phantom jets could stop us. But (the people) did not."

More and more, the RAM has moved past the classic coup mode toward incorporating elements of the insurgency. More and more, Danny Lim says, the RAM has recognized the need to "politicize" the people. More and more, it believes that the overthrow of government—if and when it happens, and if and when it remains necessary—may no longer be the handiwork of a "few good men" but of a popularly supported movement.

But as the RAM has found out—and the Left has long known—"politicizing the people" is not a stroll in the park or the grassy slopes of Camp Aguinaldo. It has brought with it more sorrows and frustrations than joys and exhilarations. It is not enough that people are hungry and bitter. They must also know who has made them hungry and bitter. More than this, they must know as well that rebellion, rather than personal revenge—as all the Tagalog "action movies" urge—is the best way to find redress.

Hunger alone does not spark a prairie fire. "In 1989, we thought we were the spark," a RAM member says wryly. "Nothing lit."

RAM Unclear About Goal of Fighting

HK0202065693 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Feb 93 p 1

[Second of two installments in a series by Conrado de Quiros]

[Text] But if RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] is clear about what it's fighting against, it's not as clear about what it's fighting for. If RAM is clear about what it does not want, it's not as clear about what it wants.

"People may think all we want is power," says Boy Maligalig, "but that's not so. We were serious when we said our role was merely that of a caretaker. If we had won in 1989, we wouldn't have kept power for ourselves. We would have given it to you."

By "you" he means civilians of proven honesty and worth. If Maligalig is to be believed, the RAM would have stayed on just long enough to form the new government, and thenceforth taken on a subordinate role.

Of course, says another RAM member, they had some very anxious moments at the height of the coup when it seemed not that they were losing but that they were winning. Until then, he said, everything had lodged in the realm of theory. Now it lodged in the realm of fact—or at least of possibility. Confronted with near-victory, they asked themselves: "What now?"

There was always the threat of a bloodbath. Idealism worked both ways. It inspired people to push themselves to the limit, but it also drove them to go to the extreme. "The older ones among us were bound to show restraint," says one of them. "But you could never tell about the younger ones. They've been told that the enemies of society were the corrupt politicians, government officials, and generals. If they decided to line all of them up against the wall, I don't know that we could have stopped them."

But to what end?

Until recently, that wasn't clear. At the start, whether from genuine conviction or from a need to distract Marcos, RAM claimed to hew to the vision of the "Filipino Ideology." That is no longer so.

Their new vision is spelled out in a paper entitled "Talking Points," which is also their position in the peace talks. They have five talking points, or goals: 1) good government, 2) electoral reforms, 3) nationalist economic policies, 4) social justice, and 5) the reorientation of security concerns.

A program or a mere wish list?

Whatever it is, it's doubtful that RAM already thought in these terms as far back as 1989. Equally doubtful is that this "vision" has seeped into the consciousness of the RAM rank and file. The leaders themselves do not seem to have internalized it, inviting the curious instead to refer to the document whenever they are asked questions about means and ends.

The "vision" is really breathtakingly simple. The heart of the matter is government: It's government that must undertake the reforms to achieve these goals. For this to happen, "change must start with government."

We need a government," they say, "with the political will, capacity, and capability for governance; one which can lead and be able to make and enforce fundamental policy decisions to enable it to serve and protect the people and promote the general welfare."

How may government do this? In two ways which, however, "Talking Points" does not spell out. One, you take over government. Two, you compel government to do it. The first is achieved by a coup, the second—or so RAM hopes—by peace talks.

The one does not preclude the other.

That is what separates RAM from the NDF [National Democratic Front] Despite RAM's adaptation of features of the insurgency—"politicizing the masses," and so on—the fundamental strategy remains "intervention from below." That is, government is the source of social change. It is not the culmination of social change—or revolution. The RAM sees changing government as a means of empowering the people. The NDF sees empowering people as the means of changing government.

Definitely, the RAM "Talking Points" does not constitute an "ism." But that is its strength as much as its weakness. Simplicity is strength and weakness.

Its weakness is that it demands leaps of faith, or imagination, to see how the goals may indeed be "actualized," as the paper suggests.

You look, for example, at the "minimum program" for good government and you're hard put to see how it differs from the recommendations of the defunct commission on government reorganization or even the "government non-government organizations [NGO's]." It's too minimum, even for a minimum program. It seeks administrative changes, not political ones.

RAM's questions—raised at the beginning of the paper—may be "revolutionary," but its answers are not.

The strength of the "Talking Points" is that it touches base with popular sentiments, or grievances. Haydee Yorac once chastised the NGO's in this way: "You want people to follow you, you talk about things they can understand. Otherwise, all you'll bring to Congress are a hundred people or so. You may shout your heads off, but no one will listen to you. Not the public, not the congressmen. You want to bring pressure on Congress, you bring a multitude. But if you want to bring a multitude, you talk to them about things they can understand."

For better or worse, RAM does.

The road to peace

But why peace? Can RAM truly be a spent force however it tries to keep up a brave front?

Danny Lim answers. Unlike the NDF, he says, RAM does not draw its strength from the underground. It

draws its strength from above ground. Its force does not consist of those who have been driven to the life of fugitives. It consists of middle-level officers and rank-and-filers who are right in the heart of the mainstream military. "They're just there. They go about their duties like ordinary soldiers and officers. But they'll act when the time comes. That's what happened in 1989."

Indeed, Lim says, RAM was contemplating taking action during the elections. "We could have struck before the elections, and some of us actually thought we should. But that would have been preempting an important political exercise. And our experience in 1989 told us it would be foolish to act without public support. Better, we thought, to strike after the elections—in the event of massive cheating. There was cheating. (RAM believes Miriam Santiago won the elections.) But to our surprise, the public did not rise in outrage over it. Can it be we have gotten numb to things like this?"

They've surfaced and entered into peace talks with government, says Gringo Honasan, for a simple reason: The public wanted it. "We sensed a groundswell for peace, and we heeded it." [National Security Adviser] Jose Almonte first got in touch with them shortly after Fidel Ramos took his oath as president, and sounded them out on the possibility of talking peace. "We had always said we were open to dialogue. We gave them our talking points (an earlier draft) long before."

But what do they expect to get from the talks? Do they trust Ramos?

"Let's just say we still regard him the same way as before," says Honasan. "But we have no choice. We have to give this a try. If the talks fail, well—" He leaves the sentence unfinished.

What exactly they expect to get from the talks is unclear. The NDF, someone observes, wants a negotiated peace settlement while RAM wants a dialogue. Does this mean the RAM is more open to compromises? Does this mean the RAM position is looser?

"While we call our initiative a 'dialogue,'" says Boy Malaigalig, "it's not really as tentative or openended as it sounds. Whether it signifies a negotiated settlement or not, our goal is to see some structural changes in society. You can see this from our 'Talking Points'. This shows the changes we want to see in society. If these changes are not forthcoming, then we'll pull out from the talks."

"But the 'Talking Points'," he goes on, "also shows that our time frame is not a short one. If the goal of the peace process is reform, then it cannot end in a few months or even a few years. We see the peace process as taking place even after Ramos. What we are after are some concrete signs of reforms being implemented."

What concrete signs are these?

"We'll formulate timetables, graduated stages," says Honasan.

Like what, for example?

He does not know. These things will have to be determined in the talks, he says.

But how will you know when the reforms are not being carried out? How will you know when government is foot-dragging?

"We'll know. The people will know."

What if the government says at some point that its hands are tied—that the ball is on Congress' side, and it has no control over Congress? What if government says it's doing everything in its power to implement the reforms, but that these things take time?

"They can't say that," says Malaigalig. "We presume that when we talk with government, it can commit all its forces to its decision, in the same way that we can commit our forces to ours. They can't say they have no control over Congress. If they've made an agreement, Congress must follow."

Honasan is thoughtful. "Do you suppose," he asks his interrogators, "it is possible to formulate a set of common standards of tolerance, a kind of social threshold of pain, beyond which the people may rebel against their government? For example, a certain level of poverty, or suffering, to be agreed upon. Government may not exceed this. As soon as that level drops, everyone may automatically take to the streets. Maybe [television commentator] Noli de Castro can make these levels known to the public and monitor them."

I look to see if he is joking. He is not.

Whatever comes out of the peace talks, Honasan and company do not look forward to a bright new career in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines]. It's not all idealism. The practical part of it is that if they went back to the AFP, they would find themselves at the lower ends of the pecking order. That's what happened to Victor Corpus. He was reinstated, but as a junior officer.

"I've a small plot of land," says Malaigalig. "I'll probably end up farming." Even as he says this, Billy Bibit's wife is on the phone discussing deliveries of RAM T-shirts which she manufactures.

What will happen to RAM if the peace talks should hold? Will it disband? Will it be happy to work in the sidelines? Will it be content to turn into an NGO?

"We've always known we would go," says Gregorio Honasan. "We've always told government: Give us no reason to exist. Make us superfluous."

Government, Military Rebels To Resume Talks

HK0302033793 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Talks between government representatives and the Reform the Armed Forces Movement-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-SFP-YOU] will resume on 16 February. It was suspended on 29 January, when the latter's negotiating panel submitted two new points. The first point was that the government panel failed to present an authorization to negotiate on behalf of the government. The military rebel panel also protested against the government's failure to release all detained rebels, which was part of an earlier supplemental agreement signed by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and the RAM-SFP-YOU. RAM sources said the government sent several emissaries to convince their panel to continue with the negotiations.

MNLF on Red Alert; Warns Against Military Move

HK0302022593 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] throughout Sulu is now on double red alert. This is in response to an earlier statement from the military that they will launch pursuit operations against the kidnapers of Sisters Fatima and Julia who are in the area of the MNLF.

Double red alert means any single move toward the area of the kidnapers will mean a counter offensive on the side of the MNLF.

Local MNLF leaders are worried that the military might take advantage of the kidnaping incident to provoke war on the MNLF Bangsa [Homeland] Moro forces. There is an existing agreement between the military in Sulu and the Bangsa Moro forces to respect and recognize areas controlled by both camps.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We are doing our best, not only myself, but everybody with the option to negotiate. [end recording]

DILG [Department of Interior and Local Government] Secretary Rafael Alunan and Bishop Ben de Jesus have asked the Bangsa Moro forces to help in the release of the two nuns. There are no official orders from the central committee of the MNLF for them to mediate on the release of Sister Fatima Olivaren and Sister Julia Forster. But the local leaders say they can and they are willing to negotiate with the kidnapers anytime if the military will suspend any operation in their area.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] If we cannot get a release by convincing these kidnapers, well, we have no other recourse. We will leave it to the marines. [end recording]

Command Told To Shift From Insurgency to Crime

HK0302083093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 3 Feb 93 p 3

[Report by Noel Bartolome]

[Text] Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief, directed yesterday the National Capital Region Defense Command [NCRDC] to prepare for a gradual shift from the counter-insurgency campaign to assisting the Philippine National Police [PNP] in fighting criminal syndicates in Metro Manila.

Abadia, who attended the sixth anniversary celebration of the NCRDC at Camp Aguinaldo, said the security threat posed by military rebels and communist insurgents have been greatly reduced but kidnappings and other criminal activities still threaten the metropolis.

He ordered Big. Gen. Raymundo Jarque, chief of the 2,000-man NCRDC that is composed of units from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Forces, to assist the PNP in the anti-crime campaign.

"As terrorism gains more publicity and outrage from the public, we may find that the internal security threat which shall need more attention will no longer be counter-insurgency but common criminality," Abadia said.

He said the military must always be ready to assist the police and other government agencies in any major crisis that may arise.

AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] records showed that the New People's Army Force in Metro Manila and nearby provinces was reduced by 10.6 percent last year from a strength of 2,481 in 1991 to 2,218 by the end of 1992.

Affected barangays, mostly in Rizal and Bulacan, also decreased last year by 28 percent, from 79 in 1991 to 57.

Envoy Signs UN Chemical Weapons Ban

HK0102053093 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY in English 30 Jan 93 p 6

[Text] The Philippines has signed a historic United Nations convention banning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, an agreement hailed as the "first real universal treaty on disarmament."

Rosario Manolo, Philippine ambassador to France, signed for the country during ceremonies held last January 13 in Paris which was attended by French President Francois Mitterrand.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that 125 out of 140 countries present at the Paris meeting signed the UN Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction.

In his address, Mitterrand called the convention the "first real universal treaty on disarmament" and the second major step toward disarmament following the Start II treaty signed by the United States and Russia.

The 1923 Geneva protocol only banned the use of chemical weapons by any state, but the new UN convention goes further by prohibiting its production, stockpiling, transfer and use.

The recent pact also provides for the eventual destruction of existing chemical weapons.

According to DFA officials, UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali described the treaty as a major breakthrough in disarmament, especially since it had resulted from multilateral negotiations.

They said some Arab states signed the conventions, but others refused to support it until Israel destroys its nuclear weapons which Arab countries perceive as a threat to them.

Countries like Sweden and Germany later offered to help fund the setting up of a secretariat in The Hague, Netherlands to tackle new verification procedures in line with the convention.

Supreme Court Justice Announces 'Early Retirement'

HK0202055093 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Feb 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Rey G. Panaligan]

[Text] Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez Jr announced yesterday his early retirement from the Supreme Court for reasons of delicadeza [finesse or propriety].

Gutierrez, who turned 66 last Jan. 29, has four more years to serve as member of the High Court where he is the senior associate justice or next in rank to Chief Justice Andres R. Narvasa.

In a letter to Narvasa and the associate justices, Gutierrez said he could "no longer be free and as effective" in view of allegations that he did not author the court's decision on a case involving the conflict between two telecommunications firms.

Following is the full text of Gutierrez's letter to the Supreme Court members dated Feb. 1:

"In the light of developments in the past few days, I have decided to retire from the Supreme Court for reasons of 'delicadeza.'

"The allegation that I did not author the court's decision in the PLDT [Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company] case is false and totally unfounded. The legal researcher who helped me prepare the statement of facts; the stenographer who typed the initial dissenting opinion, its conversion into a majority opinion, and the final corrected copy after protracted deliberations in

several court sessions; and the members of the court who participated in the lengthy debates, offering various additions to the original draft, can undoubtedly clear me of the concocted accusation. I am innocent. My conscience is clear.

"It is not alone the truth, however, which is important but also the perception of propriety. I have always taken a strong and independent position in most controversial cases decided by the court, never paying attention to the prominent persons or billions of pesos involved. I now feel that I can no longer be as free and as effective. My usefulness to the court has been curtailed. I am also disturbed by the effects on the administration of justice. The court cannot fully attend to the heavy load of important and sensitive cases before it.

"After forty years of service to our people, eleven of which have been in the Supreme Court, it pains me deeply to have to exit in this manner. But it appears to be the correct action to take.

"I would like to thank you and the justices for the unfailing courtesy and kindness extended to me. May God bless us all.

"Thank you."

The Supreme Court will issue today a statement on the letter-retirement of Gutierrez. It was reported that the tribunal met en banc yesterday morning and discussed Gutierrez's wish to retire from the court.

The letter did not mention the effectivity of Gutierrez's retirement. But reports stated that the retirement would be effective March 31.

While he would be retiring before the compulsory retirement age of 70, Gutierrez would be entitled to all benefits because of his length of service, at least 11 of which were as justice of the Supreme Court.

Published reports (not the Manila Bulletin's) claimed that Gutierrez "faked" the tribunal's decision in the case between Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (ETPI) and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT).

The High Court, in a decision written by Gutierrez, ruled in favor of the PLDT and stopped ETPI from operating an international gateway facility. ETPI filed a motion for reconsideration and the motion is pending resolution by the tribunal.

Quoting a foreign philologist, published reports stated that the tribunal's decision was not written by Gutierrez but by the PLDT counsel.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had issued a statement clearing Gutierrez of the charges.

It said the report that Gutierrez "faked" the ruling on the PLDT case "was totally incorrect, highly misleading, and unjust."

The Supreme Court said its members have full confidence in and high respect for Justice Gutierrez.

Gutierrez was born on Jan. 29, 1927, in Lubao, Pampanga. He is married to Esperanza Cristobal, a education district supervisor, with whom he has two children—Daniel, a lawyer, and Mae Carolyn, a physician.

He finished his law [as published] at the University of the Philippines and master of laws at the University of Michigan. He passed the 1952 bar examinations with a rating of 89.05 percent.

He entered public service as a shipping clerk in 1943. From 1953 to 1960, he was a legal supervisor of the United States Veterans Administration.

Before his appointment as assistant solicitor general in 1973, Gutierrez was with the Social Security System in various capacities.

On Jan. 7, 1977, he was appointed associate justice of the Court of Appeals and was elevated to the Supreme Court on May 14, 1982.

Then President Corazon C. Aquino reappointed Gutierrez after the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution.

A source close to Gutierrez quoted the justice as saying after yesterday's en banc deliberation: "I am still a poor man."

Supreme Court Issues Statement

*HK0302062293 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 3 Feb 93 p 1*

[Report by Fil C. Sionil]

[Text] **Supreme Court Statement on Optional Retirement of Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez Jr.**

The Court accepts with regret the decision of Mr Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez Jr. to retire optionally effective on March 3, 1993, and to go on terminal leave immediately.

The decision was purely a personal one on the part of Mr Justice Gutierrez, founded on the reasons stated in his letter to the Court dated February 1, 1993. It was reached without prior consultation with the Court and certainly not upon its urging. Mr Justice Gutierrez's optional retirement is not in any way connected with any formal charges against him for indeed there are none. He simply has, it appears, grown weary of controversy and disputation.

Mr Justice Gutierrez thus ends forty years of continuous public service. It wishes to end it quietly and without fanfare, and prays that his wish be respected. [sentence as published]

The court deems it proper once again to advert to media reports and comments tending to cast doubt on the integrity, intellectual or otherwise, of members of the Judiciary, including the Court itself, and to stress to the public certain propositions rooted in common sense and

fundamental notions of simple justice that, by reason of their self-evident validity, it has time and again applied in the resolution of factual issues laid before it.

Allegation is not proof—to state, to aver, to declare is not the same as to prove, to demonstrate, to substantiate. It matters not that an allegation is made repeatedly, or by several individuals on different occasions, or through different modes of communication. The allegation cannot, for these irrelevant reasons, be taken as a proven fact. Bare averments of wrongdoing, without substantiation, are nothing but rumor, gossip, or hearsay. The only time that allegations may be taken as proof is when they are made in the form of relevant testimony, based on personal knowledge, before a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction under circumstances allowing for confrontation and confutation.

It is precisely to provide an opportunity for substantiation of the current allegations of corruption in the Judiciary—to the end that those alleged and shown by competent proof to be unfit, in appropriate proceedings before proper authority, may be cast out or otherwise sanctioned—that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Court was constituted by Administrative Order No. 11-93.

The solemn obligation of those who have made and continue to make allegations of misconduct and venality in the courts is to come forward and present to this Ad Hoc Committee the proof of their allegations. It is an obligation they owe to the nation and imposed on them by considerations of simple fairness. It is not enough for them to simply say that they have made their allegation and that it is for the Court to prove it. Having made the allegation themselves, they are obligated to particularly identify those they claim to be corrupt and describe the manner and form of their corruption and thus assist in exorcising from the judicial institution what has been decried as the "cancer of corruption" infesting it.

[Dated] Feb 2, 1993

Oil Exports Begin From Palawan Fields

*HK2801051093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in
English 28 Jan 93 p 11*

[Text] Puerto Princesa City, Palawan—The Philippines is now an oil-exporting country, the culmination of years of oil exploration and research in Palawan.

A statement recently said Alcorn Production Philippines, Inc., a consortium of domestic and foreign companies and operator of West Linapacan oil well, exported 325,667 net bulk barrels of crude oil to Texas on board the oil tanker Donna Rita.

Another shipment of 232,138.12 bulk barrels was exported to Singapore through MV Rowan.

All these oil exports are from the production wells of West Linapacan rigs off the western coast of Palawan.

Alcorn officials said the volume of monthly oil exports may increase as soon as the rig's lifting capacity improves.

The shipments of crude oil, categorized as "sweet" oil, are of a lighter and much higher quality and are more expensive.

Aside from the West Linapacan wells, there are three other offshore production wells in Palawan which also produce crude oil, but these are refined and consumed locally.

In a related development, the rehabilitation/concreting of the 284-linear meter rock causeway at the terminal port of Cuyo was completed in August last year.

The rock causeway provides access to the pier and a berthing space for small vessels such as bancas during high tide.

DOE Confirms Oil Discovery

*HK0202062093 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2
Feb 93 p 9*

[Text] The Department of Energy [DOE] yesterday confirmed the presence of undetermined amount of oil in Malampaya well, located in North Palawan. "Fair oil shows were observed from the well cuttings," a drilling bulletin from the Department of Energy said yesterday. The oil shows appeared at the depth of 11,124 feet, 524 feet away from the programmed depth of 11,648 feet.

Malampaya oil and gas strike was discovered last year by Shell Philippines Exploration and Occidental Petroleum which now has contract to explore and develop the oilfield. Shell-Oxy's initial estimates placed the recoverable reserve of Malampaya at 300 million barrels of oil. If this projection is proved, Malampaya will be the largest oil find in the country. It would be bigger than West Linapacan whose recoverable reserve is placed at 100 million barrels. It is now producing about 16,000 barrels of oil per day. But West Linapacan's discoverer, Alcorn Petroleum, expects to increase this amount by 1994 after it expands its oilfield this month.

Shell-Oxy resumed coring operations today. During this operation, Shell-Oxy hopes to retrieve a sizeable amount of rock which will give an idea of the oilfield's characteristic. David Baladad, chief of the oil and gas division of the DOE, said this recent development indicates that Malampaya has a good liquid hydrocarbon reserve. But he added there is still insufficient data to determine the true size of the oil reserve. "Until they (Shell-Oxy) complete their drilling operations and assess its results, we wouldn't know the amount of recoverable reserve," he said. He expects Shell-Oxy to wrap up drilling operations and testings to within the next few days.

Thailand

Son Sann 'Urgently' Requests Mediation

*BK0302011193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
3 Feb 93 p A2*

[Text] A Cambodian leader urgently sought the help of Thailand and Asean countries yesterday to stop the offensive launched by the Phnom Penh government against the Khmer Rouge.

Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), said here that with mediation from Thailand and other Asean nations, the conflict would die down.

Son Sann was speaking after meeting with Gen. Charan Kullawanit, chief of the Thai National Security Council. He later repeated his call for help to halt the hostilities to Interior Minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

The Cambodian leader is expected to convey a similar request today to Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan.

Son Sann said Cambodians want peace, not war, because they have suffered grievously from more than a decade of civil strife.

Cambodia wants Thailand's assistance to ensure free and fair legislative elections recently scheduled for May 23-25. He did not elaborate.

Asked if the new government offensive is the result of the failure of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) to restore peace, Son Sann said it was very difficult to reply, but added, "Untac's success is Cambodia's survival and Untac's failure is Cambodia's death."

Charan, however, said there is no need to say whether Untac has failed or not, although he observed that Untac has been unable to disarm the four Cambodian factions.

He predicted that the fighting will not escalate because, unlike during the civil war, the factions do not have outside backers to keep them supplied with arms and ammunition.

"What I'm concerned over is whether the post-election government would be strong enough to bring prosperity to Cambodia," Charan said.

Charan expressed confidence that the elections will be held as scheduled.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC), will return from Beijing to chair a meeting of the body in Phnom Penh next Thursday. He will stop over in Bangkok today.

Loggers Protest UN Export Ban

BK0302012393 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
3 Feb 93 p A2

[Text] About 50 loggers staged a protest in front of Government House yesterday demanding that the government do something to alleviate hardships resulting from the UN-sponsored ban on log exports from Cambodia.

The protesters threatened to return, if their demands are not met, with tens of thousands of workers they say face unemployment.

The group, headed by the president of the Thai Log Trading Association, Nopphon Tangnusasana, sought to meet with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai but was stopped by security guards. They dispersed after an hour.

Their demands included a 180-day grace period on the ban during which they could move cut logs out of Cambodia, as well as compensation from the government and the UN for their present and future losses if a grace period is not provided.

They also urged the government to take care of workers and their families facing unemployment due to the border closure.

Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) last month rejected a Thai Foreign Ministry request for a 180-day grace period for Thai loggers. Processed wood could still be exported under the supervision of the SNC and United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac).

National Security Council Secretary General Gen. Charan Kullawanit yesterday quoted Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, as saying that logs were still being exported along the eastern border of Cambodia in violation of the SNC ban declared last year.

Son Sann told Charan during yesterday's meeting that only Untac has set up checkpoints along that segment of Cambodia's border, adjacent to Vietnam. To enforce the sanctions the SNC must join with Untac to man the checkpoints, he said. "Logs are still being exported through Cambodia's Rattana Khiri province," Charan said. Meanwhile, a source said the transfer of timber across the eastern border has been going on day and night.

According to Charan, the western border of Cambodia, adjacent to Thailand, has been free from the smuggling of logs.

Thailand closed its border crossing points with Cambodia in compliance with the SNC ban, which has been in effect for about two months. Bangkok also prohibited the importation of Cambodian processed wood to a chorus of criticism from timber traders who described the measure as an overreaction. The ban on logs does not cover processed wood, according to the UN sanctions.

Problems of Investing in Cambodia Detailed

BK0202073393 Bangkok *BANGKOK POST* in English
2 Feb 93 p 22

[Text] Fuldaa Corporation's owner Udom Tantiprasongchai is taking steps to withdraw his investments from Cambodia, beginning with the closure of his two textile factories in Phnom Penh.

His Cambodia International Airline also faces uncertainty over its air traffic rights after an agreement between Thailand and Cambodia ends in March, but he said he is "ready to fight".

Mr Udom is involved in a variety of businesses in Phnom Penh ranging from textile production, Pochentong Airport renovation and expansion to operating a duty-free shop, hotel and an airline.

Currently, only the airline and his hotel called Soliya Hotel remain in operation.

Mr Udom, who has decided to close down the two textile factories and transfer the operation of the duty-free shop to the Cambodian authority, has also not heard anything from the Civil Aviation Department of Cambodia regarding a proposal to renovate and expand the Pochentong Airport.

Fuldaa Corporation holds the concession to renovate the airport and to build a new international airport in Phnom Penh.

Mr Udom believes he might have been blocked because his master plan has been shelved for months.

"I have always tried to calm myself down. Now I decide to make my story known, at least to warn those wishing to do business in Cambodia on what they should be prepared for," he told *BUSINESS POST*.

Mr Udom said the closure of the textile factories had resulted in a loss of around 70 to 80 million baht.

"The factories employed over 1,000 people, although only a few hundred were needed for their operation," he added.

This, he claims, was because the Cambodian Government had requested him to maintain the high number of employees, and "their salaries also kept rising.

"I have already informed the Industry Ministry of Cambodia of my decision but they still want to negotiate. The next meeting will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) in Phnom Penh. But I don't think I'll change my mind, I am giving up," Mr Udom said.

The two textile plants had been operated by Fuldaa in the past two years at the cost of around three million baht a month. The aim of the company was to promote the production capacity and to turn the business into garment manufacturing for export in future.

He said he would soon withdraw his hotel business as well.

The main reason of his withdrawal is, however, the difficulties he had to face in operating the Cambodia International Airlines.

The airline company was established as a joint venture between Fuldaa and the Civil Aviation Department of Cambodia to operate international flights on behalf of the Cambodian Government.

Mr Udom claimed that he had frequently been treated badly by a member of the Cambodian Cabinet in charge of aviation because of a conflict over personal interests of the Cambodian minister.

While the agreement clearly said that Cambodia International Airlines would operate on behalf of the Cambodian side on international routes, the Cambodian Civil Aviation Department had been doing all it could to push the company out of business Mr Udom complained.

It was twice ordered to suspend operation which had greatly damaged the image of the airline among customers.

The latest incident happened between January 22 and 26 when the airline's operation was suspended because "the company's aircraft had blocked the way of the wife of Prince Norodom Sihanouk at Pochentong Airport".

The airline which ran daily flights was also instructed to reduce its operation to five flights per week until a new air traffic rights accord was agreed by Thailand and Cambodia.

And there is a possibility that Cambodia International Airlines may not be listed as an airline operator on Cambodian side, thus leaving only Kampuchea Airlines and S.K. Air in operation.

Mr Udom recently made an official complaint to the Cambodian Government.

"I was assured that the agreement will be protected. But there is no guarantee that I'll be protected from those ill-intentioned actions. I don't mind stopping the operation but I will take any steps to fight," he said.

He plans to appeal to the Supreme National Council and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which he hopes will protect his rights as a foreign investor in Cambodia.

Visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Discusses Trade

*BK0202021193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Feb 93 p 3*

[Text] India and Thailand yesterday discussed trade and technology cooperation and agreed to promote exchanges of visits at every level, said Deputy Foreign Ministry Spokesman Rawi Hongpraphat.

The discussion brought together Permanent Secretary Pracha Khunakasem and Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit, who was in Bangkok as part of New Delhi's new emphasis on ties with Southeast Asian countries.

India kept a distance from Thailand during the Cambodian war when, as an ally of the former Soviet Union, it supported the Vietnamese-backed leadership in Phnom Penh, observers said.

Mr Rawi said the Indian foreign secretary was briefed on Thailand's position on Cambodia and Burma.

Yesterday's talks marked the fourth exchange of views between Thai and Indian officials at the permanent secretary level, Mr Rawi said.

Mr Dixit offered Indian technology in electronic telecommunications and computers in exchange for specialised Thai and ASEAN know-how, he said.

He agreed to convey for New Delhi's consideration Mr Pracha's proposal to sell second grade Thai rice, Mr Rawi said.

Mr Pracha put forward the proposal after pointing out that Thailand suffered a trade deficit of 19,000 million baht in 1991.

Mr Pracha also proposed fisheries cooperation and the Indian foreign secretary promised to provide data on legal procedures.

The foreign secretary, formerly secretary-general of an Indian cultural society, also proposed cooperation between cultural experts from the two countries.

Further on 'Very Cordial' Talks

*BK0302013593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3
Feb 93 p A3*

[Excerpts] India is taking a second look at buying rice from Thailand in a move that could help reduce Thailand's burgeoning trade deficit, an Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated yesterday.

Thailand offered to sell rice to India during a meeting at the Foreign Ministry on Monday between Indian Foreign Secretary Jyotindara Dixit and his Thai counterpart, Pracha Khunakasem, according to the spokesman, Rawi Hongpraphat [Thai deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman]. [passage omitted]

One reason India had previously declined to buy rice from Thailand was because officials did not know that the price quoted by Thailand was negotiable, Rawi said. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

The spokesman described the meeting between the two foreign ministers as very cordial.

The two sides also discussed ways to improve investment and strengthen trade ties, Rawi said. They agreed that

the Thai-Indian Business Council should play a bigger role in promoting trade and investment between the two countries, he said. They also indicated a need to increase the frequency of visits between officials of the two countries.

India will offer Thailand its high technology in the fields of fibre optics, laser and electronic technologies, Rawi said. [passage omitted]

Last year, Thailand and India formed a joint commission co-chaired by their respective foreign ministers to expand relations.

New 'Understanding' Reached With Saudi Envoy

*BK0202024993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
2 Feb 93 p 2*

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan has reached an understanding with Saudi charge d'Affairs Muhammad Sa'id Khujah which should avert the closure of the Saudi Embassy.

Dr Surin met with the Saudi envoy at his home on Sunday night after Mr Khujah demanded last week that the Thai Government admit it had failed to resolve the three cases involving Saudi nationals.

The Charge d'Affaires threatened to recommend that Riyadh close down the embassy here because of a lack of security for Saudi nationals.

The threat prompted a leading opposition figure to say the Government should withdraw all Thai workers in Saudi Arabia since the wages there were no longer attractive and the Middle East had become a war zone.

Dr Surin said yesterday he welcomed the exchange with Mr Khujah on ways to solve the problems, and the envoy understood and was satisfied with Thai attempts to solve the Saudi cases—the murder of four diplomats, a missing businessman and the embezzlement of jewellery earlier stolen from a Saudi palace.

"I am confident that everything will end well and there will be nothing as severe as a closing of the embassy," he said.

Dr Surin said the threatened closure of the embassy was just an opinion which came at a time when all sides were under great pressure.

Mr Khujah has been in Thailand three years and there has been no progress on the cases.

He said the envoy would fully cooperate and support Thai efforts to solve the cases.

"He is ready to listen to the facts and problems of the Thai side and understood our limitations, especially the political changes that caused the investigation to come to a halt," Dr Surin said in reference to the coup d'etat in 1991 and last year's May incidents.

Mr Khujah also expressed his wish to pay a courtesy call on the Prime Minister so they could discuss the problems.

"Saudi Arabia is impressed with the sincere gesture of the Prime Minister to solve the cases quickly and without mistakes being made as in the past," Dr Surin said.

He said the Interior Minister is also scheduled to meet the envoy to explain some details and progress on the cases.

Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa said Thailand would not yet send any representatives to admit to Saudi Arabia that it had failed to resolve the cases.

Lao Envoy Suggests 'No-Man's Land'

*BK3001024793 Bangkok THE NATION in English
30 Jan 93 p A3*

[Text] Vientiane is keen to declare the disputed Ban Romklao area a no-man's land as a first step towards official demarcation of the border hotspot between Thailand's Phitsanulok province and Sayaboury in Laos.

A brief but bloody war between Thailand and Laos in 1988 over Ban Romklao ended in a cease-fire.

Laotian Ambassador Bounkeut Sangsomsak told THE NATION that Laos wants the demilitarized zone depopulated, as was done in the vicinity of strategic Hill 491 to resolve a dispute there between Thailand and Burma.

The 80 square km of disputed land at Ban Romklao is still inhabited by villagers, who were farming there long before either government decided that possession of the area was vital to national interests.

Bounkeut, who was director general of Laos' Department of Boundary Affairs during the Ban Romklao dispute, said Vientiane would formally propose the relocation of the villages at the scheduled Thai-Lao Joint Boundary Committee (JBC) meeting next month.

The committee, co-chaired by deputy foreign ministers, was formed in November 1988 with a mandate to settle the Ban Romklao problem.

A well-informed source said the Laotian side informally aired a proposal to depopulate the area during an inspection tour in 1991, as a result of their concern that the villagers' farming methods, which involved land clearing, had changed landmarks considered crucial to the settlement of the dispute.

At an earlier meeting of a technical subcommittee set up to compare legal documents with relevant maps, Thailand had proposed maintaining the status quo in the area until the question of sovereignty could be properly established.

The source said the disputed areas were within the Phu Khat-Phu Miang-Phu Soi Dao development projects sponsored by the Second and Third Region Commands, which share responsibility for the frontier with Laos.

"People have been living in the project compound for a long time under the Army's supervision," the source said.

Enlarging the JBC's mandate would require rewriting the 1989 agreement. Laos has agreed in principle for comprehensive discussions of the dispute during the first meeting of the ministerial-level Thai-Lao Joint Commission, a policy-making body set up during the Anan I administration to complement the JBC and the military's General Border Committee.

The military committee supervises border security and regulates Thai-Laos relations, which are gradually changing from security issues to economic matters.

The ambassador said that during Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's recent visit to Vientiane, the two sides agreed on closer cooperation within existing mechanisms to solve problems and widen the scope of Thai-Lao relations.

Bounkeut said local authorities needed to meet more frequently to discuss issues and prevent minor friction caused by cross-border activities.

Thai military sources said meetings between governors of Thailand's north and northeast provinces and their Laotian counterparts had been fruitful.

However, while the two governments were being very cooperative, the governor of Thailand's Nan province and head of the Sayaboury local government in Laos remained suspicious of each other.

Nan province has long been accused of providing sanctuary for Lao insurgents, mostly ethnic Mong residing along the border, who hope to topple the Vientiane government.

During the last General Border Committee meeting in December, Thai officials insisted that Laos provide information to back up their allegations, so Thai authorities could arrest the suspects and hand them over, sources said.

Discusses Hydroelectric Plans

*BK3101014293 Bangkok THE NATION in English
31 Jan 93 p A2*

[Text] Laos will be able to meet Thailand's total demand for hydroelectricity, estimated at 13 billion megawatts annually, by the year 2000, according to the Laotian ambassador to Thailand, Bounkeut Sangsomsak.

Bounkeut said an energy development plan being studied by various aid agencies including the Asian Development Bank, calls for construction of several dams on tributaries of the Mekong River that would generate an estimated 18 billion megawatts annually within seven years.

The plan envisages capitalization of the projects through direct foreign investment, joint ventures and tripartite co-operation with another country or international aid agencies.

A delegation is to arrive in Bangkok soon for talks with Thai officials.

Bounkeut said Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri discussed future energy cooperation, which would become an indispensable part of future bilateral relations, during his official visit to Laos earlier this month.

Thailand is likely to depend heavily on Laos for future energy supplies and is already committed to buying all excess output from two major dams, Xeset and Nam Ngum.

The government of former premier Anan Panyarachun amended a law to allow the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) to invest abroad.

According to Ambassador Bounkeut, future investors in Laos could be Egat, the Thai private sector, a Thai-Laotian joint venture or even a joint project with a third party.

Hydroelectricity is Laos' second largest export earner.

'Disturbing' Aspects of Gusmao Trial Viewed

*BK0302024393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3
Feb 93 p A6*

[Editorial: "Don't Use Gusmao Trial to Whitewash Timor Shootings"]

[Text] The trial of captured Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] rebel leader Xanana Gusmao which began on Monday continues today. The Indonesian authorities have accused Gusmao of being the mastermind of the anti-Jakarta demonstration in East Timor's capital of Dili on Nov 12, 1991, where the armed forces fired upon the protesters, killing as many as 180 of them, according to some observers.

The Indonesian government however refuted this figure, initially maintaining that only 19 had died. In late December 1991, Jakarta set up a commission to look into the number that were killed and went missing and ascertained that the death toll was "up to 50" with 90 reported missing and the number of wounded "exceeding 91". Unofficial estimates put the death toll well over 100, with many of the victims dying of beatings or other abuse suffered after the shootings. To this day, no one knows what happened to the missing or to the bodies of those killed. Only 19 graves were officially found.

Whether by design or accident, Gusmao's trial comes two days after Jakarta played host to a United Nations-sponsored human rights workshop, in preparation for the UN World Conference on Human Rights scheduled to be held in Vienna from June 14-25.

Indonesia's President Suharto, speaking at the opening of the workshop, said donor countries often put pressure on aid recipients over human rights. Suharto argued that individual countries had the right to tackle human rights issues in their own way, and told the delegates that a guarantee of human rights in developing countries cannot be compared with the situation in developed countries, "since at the same time (developing countries) had to create a fair and prosperous society, not only for one person but for the whole society". After the Dili massacre, Indonesia refused aid from the Netherlands early last year, after the Dutch government criticized the shootings.

Before we go any further, it should be pointed out that equality in the administration of justice, based on the perception that human rights are universal and not amenable to any hierarchical classification, is the cornerstone of UN endeavours to promote justice.

The London-based human rights group Amnesty International came up with some alarming information late December confirming 60 arrests at the one year anniversary of the Dili massacre. This clearly shows that the crackdown in East Timor by the Indonesian armed forces has not stopped and we, like the rest of the civilized world, are seriously concerned about the safety and welfare of the East Timorese people.

There is a distinct possibility that the trial of Xanana Gusmao might be used by the Indonesian government to try to atone for their atrocities in the Dili massacre. Already the signs are there.

Though the 45-year-old rebel has a long list of charges against him—from attacking Indonesian military installations to cooperating with exiled rebels and foreign journalists to get international recognition for his cause—the charge carrying the death penalty (illegal possession of firearms) was listed only as a subsidiary charge. Under a subsidiary charge, in accordance with Indonesian law, it is unlikely that Gusmao will get the maximum death penalty.

The fact that the Indonesian government fulfilled its promise of giving Gusmao a free, fair and open trial is a real step forward, and should be recognized as such. However, Gusmao's trial should not be used to cover up the fact that there has been no real accounting for the deaths and disappearances that took place on November 12, 1991.

Another disturbing piece of news is that after Gusmao's arrest, Indonesian authorities said that more than 1,100 of his former supporters had surrendered. This is indeed baffling, for the Indonesian government early last year maintained that Fretilin numbers had dwindled to less than 100, waging a lost struggle in East Timor jungles. We can't help but deduce that many East Timorese have been arrested, and in failing to levy proper charges against them, the Indonesian authorities have classified these people as Fretilin members.

Clearly, the more the Indonesian armed forces use harsh methods to crush opposition to Jakarta, the more hatred will be generated. Instead of being virtually obsessed with fighting the resistance movement, Jakarta should make efforts to economically "empower" the East Timorese, who now feel that their beloved island is being "Javanized" with all the jobs going to outsiders who have taken advantage of development pouring into the area.

Indonesia, being the leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, can ill-afford to drag its international image through the mud any longer over East Timor. Its present pariah-like status over human rights is clearly an impediment to Jakarta playing a pivotal role in the region in the post-Cold War world.

Plan To Move to Fruit Production Discussed

BK0202040993 Bangkok THE NATION in English
2 Feb 93 p B1,B2

[Text] The Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives Ministry will seek approval from Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on February 4 to convert more than 100,000 rai of second crop rice fields to fruit plantations within five years.

An official from the Agricultural Promotion Department said that the plan will help solve the problem of depressed rice prices due to an excessive surplus output in the market.

Despite a budget of more than Bt [baht] 10 billion for its intervention programme, the Chuan administration has failed to maintain rice prices at the desired level. The price has dropped relative to the flow of second crop paddy into the market.

During the upcoming meeting on Feb 4, the Agriculture Ministry will present its plan to reduce the second crop rice plantations and to resolve the problem of water shortage in the Chao Phya basin.

The official suggested that if the government approves the plan, it should take an immediate action to get it going, especially as farmers are now out of the planting season. "Otherwise, the farmers will plant second crop paddy again."

He added that the farmers have begun understanding the necessity of switching crops, but have been hampered in making the change due to lack of investment and new seeds. He suggested the government should supply farmers with low-interest loans to enable them to switch.

The official also said the ministry has prepared a water pump for farmers in the south of Chao Phya basin, as they are suffering from inadequate water supply for their cultivations. The second crop rice cultivation in the south of Chao Phya basin totals 800,000 rai.

Agricultural officers at the subdistrict level will survey the area of second crop rice plantation in the Chao Phya basin and plan how to switch the same into fruit plantations. The plan will not affect prime-grade rice crop.

Fruit plantations generate better income for farmers because the output is in great demand.

Senate Committee Notes Savings-Investment Gap

BK0202132993 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
2 Feb 93 p A2

[Text] The Senate Committee on Fiscal Banking and Financial Institutions has proposed measures aimed at narrowing the gap between national savings and the demand for investment, a problem that threatens to destabilize the Thai economy.

Khuanphot Atsawinwichit, spokesman of the Senate committee, said yesterday the government should set up a national organization to specifically look after savings, apart from promoting tools for savings and strengthening financial institutions.

He indicated that the Senate committee had recommended that the government move swiftly to find ways to make it easier for the private sector to issue commercial paper, such as bonds and securities, to enable the debt market to grow in line with the development of the economy.

In a developed market, debt instruments are important tools to mobilize savings to meet the demand for investment. Specifically, the Senate committee wants the government to facilitate the development of the debt market by reducing tax barriers.

Khuanphot said: "The (more attractive) commercial paper market will also encourage investors to bring long-term funds into the country because most commercial papers are long-term. This will help reduce the current account deficit."

The Senate committee said it found that Thailand's rapid economic development over the past four to five years had led to a savings shortfall, which widened from three per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) during 1986-1990 to 6.4 per cent in 1992.

Last year, Thailand's economic growth rate was 7.5 per cent. Domestic savings were equivalent to 30.3 per cent of the GDP, but investment amounted to 36.7 per cent. The balance was offset by capital inflow.

Family savings in Thailand are very low compared with the GDP. Between 1986 and 1990, family savings equalled 8.5 per cent of the GDP, compared to overall savings of 25.8 per cent.

Last year, family savings were 8.2 per cent of the GDP, compared to overall savings of 30.3 per cent.

The Senate committee also recommended that the government encourage financial institutions to open more branches upcountry to mobilize savings. It should also allow finance companies to open upcountry branches and take deposits from the public directly.

Another way to tackle the savings shortfall is to promote the insurance industry. At present, only six per cent of all

income earners carry insurance coverage, compared to nearly 100 per cent in many developed countries.

The Savings-Investment Gap

Between 1992-96

	billion baht	percent of GDP
Demand for investment	6.35	37.0
Private sector	4.62	27.1
Public sector	1.72	10.0
National savings	5.36	31.0
Private sector	3.64	21.1
Public sector	1.71	10.0
Savings/investment gap	0.99	5.9

Vietnam

Do Muoi Attends Party Anniversary Meeting

BK0202153393 Hanoi *Voice of Vietnam* Network
in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Station correspondent's report on Hanoi meeting to mark the 63d anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, CPV]

[Summary] Dear friends, this afternoon, the Hanoi Municipal Party and People's Committees and the Fatherland Front Committee organized a solemn meeting at the Vietnamese-Soviet Cultural, Labor, and Friendship Palace to mark the 63d founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

"Attending the meeting were comrades Do Muoi, party general secretary; Pham Van Dong and Vo Chi Cong, advisers to the party Central Committee; Le Duc Anh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the state; members of the party Central Committee Political Bureau; chiefs of party agencies, and delegations representing the laboring people and mass organizations and societies in the capital city."

The meeting began at 1500 local time. After the band playing the national anthem, Comrade Pham Loi, deputy chairman of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the People's Committee delivered the opening speech. He said:

[Begin Pham Loi recording] Dear comrades Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh, Pham Van Dong, Vo Chi Cong; dear party and state leaders, delegates, comrades, and friends: Each year, in the spring atmosphere, we gather here to commemorate the CPV founding anniversary and to recall the glorious tradition of the party founded, trained, and led by our esteemed beloved Uncle Ho. Today, once again, amid the jubilant atmosphere celebrating the socioeconomic achievements scored by our country in 1992, the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, the CPV,

the People's and Fatherland Front Committees organize this solemn meeting to mark our party anniversary. I hereby declare the opening of the meeting to commemorate the 63d CPV founding anniversary. [applause] [end recording]

"Afterward, comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Municipal Party Committee, on behalf of the party committee and people of Hanoi, delivered a speech saying that the CPV founded, trained, and led by esteemed Uncle Ho is 63 years old today. During the past 63 years, the party has consistently led the Vietnamese people in the unyielding struggle to build and defend the fatherland, thereby scoring many glorious victories. After reviewing the party's revolutionary struggle and its victories attained during the past 63 years, comrade Pham The Duyet asserted our party's renovative lines and policies set by the Sixth and Seventh CPV Congresses which have led our country to various achievements in the socioeconomic and foreign affairs domains. This has been stressed by General Secretary Do Muoi at the recent party Central Committee Fourth Plenum that our country has not only overcome ordeals and hardships, but has also attained a firm foothold to advance further using its own intelligence and strength. Reviewing events during the past 63 years, comrade Pham The Duyet said:

[Begin Pham The Duyet recording] "Dear comrades and friends, the past 63 years saw the consistent and unyielding struggle of our party for the interests of our people, working class, and nation. Realities in this struggle have strengthened the people's profound confidence in our party leadership over the Vietnamese revolution. Our party has adopted a correct revolutionary line, strengthened close relations with the people, and led the Vietnamese revolution to victory after victory. In its developmental process, our party has scored great victories while experiencing mistakes and shortcomings. However, our party has promptly discovered these shortcomings and has strived to overcome them. At present, our party is striving to renovate and revamp its leadership, improve its work and activities so as to continue to lead our country to advance further. We are convinced that our party will be increasingly firm and strong and is able to maintain its quality to be worthy of the love and confidence extended by the people and friends from all over the world.

"Dear comrades and friends, during the past 63 years, the Hanoi Municipal Party Organization and people have consistently struggled and have taken the lead in all revolutionary movements organized by the party. They have, together with people throughout the country, participated in the struggle for national independence and freedom and in building and protecting socialism. Developmental achievements of the Hanoi Municipal Party Organization are in close association with the party's developmental process. As a result, the capital is increasingly firm and strong in various aspects and efforts are being made to maintain its role as the key

political, cultural, scientific-technological, economic, and international relations center of the Vietnamese nation. With its significant role and position, the Hanoi Municipal Party Organization, since the Sixth CPV Congress, has effectively led the people to positively implement the renovation undertaking, thereby scoring very encouraging achievements." [end recording]

"On behalf of the Hanoi party organization and people, Comrade Pham The Duyet affirmed the achievements of the Hanoi people scored during the past years, especially in 1992, a year of great progress. Hanoi's gross social products increased by nearly 20 percent compared to 1991; industrial production increased by 10 percent; and agricultural and forestry production developed comprehensively. Worthy of note is that grain production output increased by 30 percent; afforestation area increased by 40 percent; and trade, tourist activities, and services made notable progress and earned twice as much as in 1991. Hanoi's total export value increased by 25.8 percent, and the total capital for foreign investment projects in Hanoi reached almost \$200 million.

"Comrade Pham The Duyet also stressed tasks that the Hanoi party organization and people must strive to fulfill in 1993 and the ensuing years. These include efforts to develop industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production; accelerate cultural and social activities; to improve the people's spiritual life; to strengthen the capital management work; to effectively implement the struggle against corruption; and to take measures to renovate and rectify the party in accordance with the Party Central Committee Third Plenum's resolution. Comrade Pham The Duyet said:

[Begin Pham The Duyet recording] "Dear comrades and friends, commemorating our party founding anniversary every spring, we have the opportunity to recall the glorious history of the CPV. Sixty-three years is really a short period in the history of Vietnam. However, it is long enough to assert the position, role, and great tasks of our party. To develop the glorious tradition of the party, the Hanoi Party Organization and the people pledge that they will close ranks behind the Party Central Committee led by our esteemed Comrade Secretary General Do Muoi to continue to score ever-greater achievements in the renovation undertaking, firmly maintain political security and social order and safety, and effectively carry out the socioeconomic development programs set by the 11th Congress of the Hanoi party organization so as to triumphantly carry out socialist construction, thereby making the capital more beautiful and prosperous to be worthy of the love and confidence of the people in the capital and throughout the country. These are the aspirations and determinations of the party organization and people of the capital city.

"Long live the glorious Vietnamese Communist Party! [applause]

"Let us live, struggle, work, and study in accordance with the examples of Great Uncle Ho! [applause]

"Our renovation undertaking will definitely be successful!" [prolonged applause] [end recording]

Dear friends, the solemn meeting to commemorate the 63d CPV founding anniversary was concluded with the song: "It is as if Uncle Ho Lived With Us on the Victorious Day."

NHAN DAN Interviews Do Muoi

*BK0302063993 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 3—On the occasion of the 63rd founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam today, the national daily NHAN DAN has an interview with Party General Secretary Do Muoi, asked to elaborate on his statement at the recent 3rd plenum of the Party Central Committee that economic development is the main task while party building is the key work, Do Muoi said:

"We should concentrate efforts to rapidly overcome shortcomings in organisation and management, continue liberating the productive forces, make the most of the country's potentials, raise the efficiency of production and business and practise thrift in order to invest more in development..."

"Realities in the country and the complicated international situation at present require our party to step up research and sum up theoretical and practical questions in order to perfect our guidelines, orientations and policies, strengthen unity of mind and actions of the entire party, people and army for the sake of stepped-up renovation. The party should renovate its organization and its style of leadership to adapt to the new conditions of the building of a state under the rule of law, a state of the people, by the people and for the people. We must strengthen order and discipline so that everyone can live and work according to law..."

General Secretary Do Muoi urged all party members to take the lead in the renovation process, and in the fight against waste, corruption, smuggling, and other unlawful acts and social evils, to set bright examples in the observance of party discipline and state law.

He said: "Building the party along the aforementioned line is the main question of decisive importance for the renovation process and the revolutionary cause".

He added that caring, fostering and promoting the human factor and developing the human resources to build a prosperous and strong country and a civilized society are the main topic of discussion at the recent fourth conference of the Party Central Committee.

The party general secretary urged the government to promulgate the sooner the better concrete orientations and policies in the fields of education, culture, healthcare family planning and youth work in 1993. He noted that thanks to good economic performances in the past two years, the government is in a better position to invest in

social development. However, he stressed, due to the many difficulties and budget constraints, long-term and annual investment plans must be carefully calculated with due attention to key areas and projects as well as to the practicability and efficiency of each investment programme.

Leaders Mark Party Anniversary

*BK0202143893 Hanoi VNA in English 1417 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—A meeting was held here today by the Hanoi people's and party committee and the city's fatherland front to mark the 63rd founding anniversary of the Vietnam Communist Party (Feb. 3).

It was attended by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; President Le Duc Anh, Politburo member of the party CC [Central Committee] and Pham Van Dong and Vo Chi Cong, advisors to the party CC.

Addressing the meeting, Pham The Duet, Politburo member of the party CC and secretary of the Hanoi party committee, recalled the glorious victories scored by the party over the past 63 years in leading the Vietnamese people in national construction and defence, from the historic revolution in August 1945 to the two wars of resistance, the national reunification in 1976 and the cause of renovation at present.

He stressed Vietnam's wish to be friend with all nations in the world and its efforts for peace, independence and development.

He also brought out the important initial achievements Vietnam made in the past few years, especially in 1992, in socio-economic development which he said have affirmed the correctness of the party's renovation policy.

Similar activities to mark the occasion were also held today in the provinces of Phu Yen, Vinh Phu, Lai Chau, Ha Tinh, Quang Ngai, Quang Tri, Quang Nam-Danang and the port city of Haiphong.

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Delegation Visits

*BK0102151093 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT
1 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 1—A delegation of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO), led by Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir, AIPO president and chairman of the House of Representatives of the Malaysian Parliament, arrived here today for an official visit to Vietnam.

The delegation was welcomed at the president palace by Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly; Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly; Hoang Bich Son, member of the National Assembly Standing Committee and head of the Commission for External Relations of the National Assembly.

Also present at the welcome ceremony were ambassadors and charge d'affaires a.i. of Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Nong Duc Manh described the visit as a good opportunity to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between AIPO and ASEAN and Vietnam in the interest of peace, stability and development in the region.

For his part, Mr. Mohamed Zahir pointed to the necessity of the cooperation and mutual help between AIPO and Vietnam's National Assembly.

In the afternoon, the AIPO delegation had talks with a delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh. The two sides informed each other of the activities of their organizations, and discussed the international and regional issues of common concerns. Chairman Nong Duc Manh briefed on the major socioeconomic achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in national construction in the present renovation process. Mr. Mohamed Zahir highly valued the Vietnamese people's initial successes as good basis for their construction of a prosperous and happy country.

The two sides were unanimous that Vietnam and the ASEAN countries, being neighbours in the region, have many things in common in history, geography, economy and culture which are favourable conditions for developing cooperation, and building a peaceful, stable and prosperous Southeast Asia.

Finance Minister Visits Singapore, Malaysia

*BK0102152093 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT
1 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 1—A delegation of the Ministry of Finance led by Minister Ho Te has visited Singapore and Malaysia.

While in Singapore, Minister Ho Te and his Singaporean counterpart Richard Hu discussed the possibility of cooperation between the two ministries. The Vietnamese delegation had working sessions with the Economic Development Agency, the Central Bank, the Housing Development Fund, and visited the export processing zone and the stock exchange of Singapore. It also met with Singaporean businessmen.

During his stay in Malaysia, Mr Ho Te and his Malaysian opposite number Anwar Ibrahim agreed on measures for strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the fields of investment, economic development, payment and credit, and technical assistance and cooperation between the two ministries in budget and financial management.

Minister Ho Te also met with Malaysian Minister of Trade and Industry Mrs. Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz. Host and guest informed each other of the economic and trade situation in each country, and expressed wish for further

development of the economic and trade relations and investment between the two countries.

Economic Cooperation Commission With ROK Meets

*BK0202143493 Hanoi VNA in English 1412 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—The Vietnam-Republic of Korean Economic Cooperation Commission held its first working session here today.

The session issued a joint communique which said, among other things, that the two sides highly valued the normalization of relations between the two countries, considering it a good opportunity for businesses of both countries to expand their economic cooperation.

The session also reviewed the two countries' recent commercial activities and joint ventures. It was agreed that the exchange of visits by businessmen of both countries is necessary to promote mutual understanding and support.

The Korean side expressed its interests in building a long-term trading partnership with Vietnam through sharing experience in economic development, provision of capital and transfer of technologies.

The second session of the commission is decided to be convened in the Republic of Korea in 1994.

DPRK Ambassador Calls News Conference 2 Feb

*BK0302065193 Hanoi VNA in English 0612 GMT
3 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb 3—Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ri Hong called a press conference here yesterday to speak of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

He made public a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry of the Foreign Ministry of the DPRK on Jan. 27, which demanded that the United States and the Republic of Korea cancel the joint military exercise 'Team Spirit 93' scheduled for the middle of March this year.

Prime Minister Receives Taiwanese Businessmen

*BK0202144693 Hanoi VNA in English 1401 GMT
2 Feb 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received in Ho Chi Minh City on Jan. 31 Lawrence S. Ting, president of the Tan Thuan company, a joint Vietnam-Taiwan venture, and a delegation of the Taiwanese Central Trading and Development Corporation which is investing in building the Tan Thuan Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Ho Chi Minh City.

The prime minister welcomed the presence of the Taiwanese businessmen during Vietnam's traditional lunar new year festival and stressed that apart from the joint

ventures in building the Tan Thuan EPZ and other projects, Vietnam is interested in Taiwan's past and present experience in construction and development.

He also expressed his wish that the experience to be gained from developing the Tan Thuan EPZ should help Vietnam broaden its cooperation with other countries in this field in the future.

The Tan Thuan EPZ lies on a peninsula 4 km from Ho Chi Minh City and 10 km from Tan Son Nhat international airport. It borders on the Saigon river to the east, north and west and connects with route 15 to Ho Chi Minh City and the north-south highway.

Investment capital is estimated at 89 million U.S. dollars, plus 55 million U.S. dollars for a highway. The zone is being built by the people's committee of Ho Chi Minh City in joint venture with two Taiwanese companies, the Central Trading and Development Corp and the Pan-Viet Corp.

Construction of the infrastructural works started on Sept. 28, 1991 and is expected to complete in six years.

Authorities Waging War on Growing Corruption

*BK3001020193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
30 Jan 93 p 5*

[By Jacques Bekaert]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City—Mr Phan Anh Tuan was once a powerful man in Ho Chi Minh City. As director of the city's Customs Office he could make life easy or difficult for a lot of people. He liked to make it easy, as long as one was generous and not adverse to a substantial "good will gesture."

He had a soft spot for smugglers, too, as long as they were not too selfish. But luck is not with him anymore. Phan Anh Tuan will soon be tried as part of the government's campaign against corruption. Of course, he has been replaced as Customs Director.

The campaign for economic reform is not really contested by any influential person in Vietnam. But as business is easier and more money becomes available, there is growing concern among the government leadership about the spread of corruption and the resulting loss of prestige for the party.

On December 23 law enforcement officials met in Hanoi for a special conference chaired by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Other top officials present included Minister of Justice Nguyen Dinh Loc, General State Inspector Nguyen Ky Cam, Supreme Court President Pham Hung and Deputy Interior Minister Pham Tam Long.

The first task of the conference was to review the first results of the anti-corruption campaign launched a few months earlier. In 14 provinces and major cities 293 serious cases of corruption have been identified so far. But by the end of last year, only 28 suspects had been tried. The conference was

told that ten major new cases would be brought to trial during the first quarter of this year.

Among the cases tried so far, one of the most spectacular was that of the former chief of the Ninh Son District Tax Office of Ninh Tuan Province. Along with four cadres from the same office, he received kickbacks to the tune of 242 million dong.

The former deputy director of the Thua Thien Hue communications and transportation office pocketed 41 million dong for himself, and caused the State to lose three billion dong. Smart officials from the province of Cao Bang found another way to boost their meagre salary: They illegally exported almost 1,400 cars.

A group of officials from the Ministry of Energy and Commerce and those of the Vietnam-Polish Association gained more than three billion dong from the purchase of steel needed for the building of a North-South power line.

Officials from the Vietsovpetro joint venture in Ba Rien-Vung Tau are also under investigation. A source at Petrovietnam said it is a complicated case. The officials are accused of having dishonestly diverted large sums of money earmarked for the purchase of spare parts and equipment. As a result of their alleged corruption, the joint venture ended up with of low quality spare parts, the source said.

As the export of crude oil, mostly to Japan, is a major source of income for the country, the leadership is not amused. Heads will be rolling soon. Radio Hanoi said it was "one of the province's serious cases." Anyone who has been to Vung Tau recently will not be surprised if more cases of corruption are exposed in the future.

The Prime Minister has made it very clear that no one would be spared in the fight against corruption. He also encouraged officials from various ministries and law enforcement agencies to speed up procedure. Better guidance should be issued to amend the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedure, he said.

This is not the first anti-corruption campaign in Vietnam, and some citizens are a bit sceptical about the effectiveness of the campaign. "I hope the authorities are serious this time," a senior party member told us. He also expressed the hope that the police would concentrate on criminal, rather than political, cases.

Another official source in Ho Chi Minh City said the struggle against corruption would be the major theme of the Year of the Rooster. So far, the State Inspection has conducted financial inspection of 27 provinces and cities. They found that 512 billion dong and 1.8 million dollars were still due to the state budget. They also discovered that more than 257 billion dong in taxes and revenue had been collected but not reached state coffers.

During a recent session of the Ninth National Assembly, in December, several members questioned the extent of corruption. Inspectors, they were told, have discovered

that no less than 70 per cent of state enterprises were involved in smuggling or other forms of corruption.

Corruption and smuggling go hand in hand and are certainly a very serious issue, found at every level of society. "These social vices are being carried out by certain rings of bad elements, some of whom are personnel of our state agencies," noted a radio report on the work of the National Assembly. But the regime has to accept some responsibilities. Low salaries made corruption almost inevitable.

"If I am hungry how could I resist some extra money?" said a party member. "How I am expected to survive with a family. We are human beings, not saints." Others say that many laws are still unclear, and that the bureaucracy has encouraged questionable practices because entrepreneurs have to find parallel ways to receive

supplies and sell if they want to be efficient. Poorly paid members of the police and other law enforcement agencies are sometimes involved in illegal activities themselves.

State Inspector General Nguyen Ky Cam admitted during the last session of the National Assembly that the promulgation of various structural policies "still displayed many deficiency and loopholes and a lack of consistency, harmony and substance." The responsibilities of many directors, managers and directors of enterprises have never been well defined.

Vietnam is paying the price for poor economic and social management. But the Prime Minister is right; the time has come to fight the ills of corruption. Large-scale smuggling certainly represents a greater danger than inquisitive intellectuals.

